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THE TIMES

Mark Bonham Carter: Problems at the Home Office, page 12

Large fall in inflation rate expected this month

The Treasury expected a large fall in the rate of inflation this month, Sir Geoffrey Howe said in defence of his economic policies in the Commons yesterday. There were signs that the world recession would bottom out in 1981, and business confidence was already reviving. A record number of new small businesses was expected to be set up in the United Kingdom this year.

Confidence reviving, Chancellor says

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

Maintaining the air of optimism generated by senior ministers in recent days, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, predicted in the Commons yesterday that the worst of the recession was over and that the Treasury expected a large fall this month in the rate of inflation.

The Chancellor reiterated that the Government would not be driven off its monetarist course; all else had to give way to the priority of bringing down inflation.

Opening for the Government in the first economic debate of 1981 and rejecting an Opposition motion calling for the abandonment of his "disastrous" economic and monetarist policies, Sir Geoffrey told a somewhat sceptical Commons that the Government's successes were becoming increasingly apparent. Many forecasters expected single-figure inflation to be reached during the year.

Insisting that the Government must stick to its present policies and that the nation was seeing the first signs of their success, the Chancellor said that only responsible control of public spending would allow the lower interest rates that were being demanded.

There were good signs that the world recession would bottom out in 1981 and there was already the start of a recovery in business confidence. There was also evidence, Sir Geoffrey said, that the fall in output was coming to an end and that new businesses were establishing themselves; a record number were expected in 1981.

The Chancellor said that unemployment was likely to go on rising for some time and that there was a long and difficult period of adjustment ahead.

In spite of Sir Geoffrey's sighting of a rosier future, it was soon clear from backbench interventions that there is still considerable unrest among the Conservative rank and file. At one point, when he tried to ridicule the call from Mr Peter Shore, Labour's new shadow Chancellor, for a dramatic change of policy away from monetarism, by quoting from a Chinese newspaper, the discomfiture on the Tory benches was almost as evident as the jeers from the Opposition.

While Sir Geoffrey was asserting that it would be crazy for the Government to change course, Mr Shore was expressing "grave alarm" at its "dangerous and damaging policies".

But the alarm of Mr Shore did not appear to be reflected on the Labour backbenches. Only 36 Opposition MPs turned out to hear their new economic spokesman. However, although the departure of Mr Denis Healey from Labour's Treasury orchestra was like exchanging a big bass drum for a flute, Mr Shore's tune was much the same.

The gloom and doom was as before, though not thrust down the nation's throat with the same bombast. The country was entering a new and far more dangerous phase and the economy was lurching from stagnation to actual decline.

Referring to the appointment of Professor Alan Walters as the Prime Minister's new economic adviser, Mr Shore suggested that that could herald the most expensive and dangerous period for any nation since Rasputin won the ear of the Empress of Russia. The economy could not be run, except to destruction, by the obsessive pursuit of M3 or any other monetary harlot that the Financial Secretary decided to woo.

Mr Shore called for "a substantial and well judged increase" in public spending on roads, housing and other infrastructure programmes. The country was on the road to ruin, he said, and the only question was how much more damage would be inflicted before this stubborn, myopic and divisive Government was forced to alter course.

The opposition amendment was rejected by 304 votes to 244.

Parliamentary report, page 6
Small business aid, page 17

Budget day

Budget day will be Tuesday, March 10, Mr Francis Pym, Leader of the Commons, announced yesterday.

Prior plea for closer links with industry

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The Government opened the debate on trade union legal immunities yesterday with a Green Paper that canvasses many proposals for more restrictions on union power but puts the likelihood of any further legislation well into the next parliamentary session.

Introducing his department's discussion paper, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, made an unexpected plea for closer relationships between the Cabinet and organized labour.

"The continuing absence of a well defined, stable, and acceptable relationship between government on the one hand and trade unions and employers' associations on the other has contributed to damaging dissension", he said.

The minister wants all interested parties "to consider how this gap can be filled" and welcomes their views on that issue as well as on the 40,000-word Green Paper which presents a thorough discussion of all the options on trade union immunities but makes no hard and fast recommendations. Six months have been allowed for making representations to the Government.

Many of the right-wing nostrums advanced since the passage of the Employment Act, 1980, for curbing trade union militancy are damned with faint praise in the Green Paper. It concludes that without some legal protection it would be impossible for trade unions to organize industrial action without risk of civil proceedings. "The debate therefore is about the nature and limits of that legal protection."

Among the proposals discussed are whether union funds should be at risk for "unlawful acts" committed by union officials and members. It looks at the extent of immunity still enjoyed for "secondary action" and asks whether the law should be tightened still further.

On picketing the Green Paper is unenthusiastic about tougher measures.

The Green Paper then considers the pros and cons of the Government's taking powers to make strikes unlawful in essential services. It concludes that the experience of the Betteshanger miners in 1941 proved that even in wartime it is impossible to prevent strikes altogether by making the strikers liable to criminal prosecution.

Finally, Mr Prior's department takes the discussion into unchartered territory with a consideration of the effect that a complete shift in labour law from immunities to positive rights, including a right to strike, might have. It would be a "formidable task" to make such a fundamental change in the law, and the Government asks: "Would a system of positive rights contribute to an improvement in industrial relations?"

The immediate reaction of Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, was that the Government was attempting to "exhume stale ideas" so as to distract attention from its economic policies.

The CBI welcomed the document.

Green Paper, page 4
Leading article, page 13

A Rome policeman helping Judge Giovanni D'Urso to emerge from under blankets in the car where his Red Brigades kidnappers left him bound and gagged yesterday. Report page 7

French armed forces on alert against Libya

From Ian Murray
Paris, Jan 15

The French Army and Navy are standing by to evacuate French citizens from Libya and Chad as relations between France and the Tripoli regime deteriorate rapidly.

The French Mediterranean fleet is on alert and ready to put to sea for Libya, although the Ministry of Defence today refused to say that any special preparations were being made.

[Naval officers said all leave had been cancelled and warships were taking on board a full load of ammunition and supplies, Reuter reports from Toulon.]

In the Central African Republic the French garrison, which was doubled in strength at the weekend, is ready to move into southern Chad to rescue 250 French planters.

But apart from putting the armed forces on alert, the only positive action the French Government has taken is to ask Elf-Aquitaine, the state-controlled oil company, to delay implementing its new contract to prospect in Libya.

The board of Elf-Aquitaine last night agreed to postpone the contract. The French Government is the company's main shareholder with a 67 per cent holding.

France's ambivalent attitude to Libya, however, was epitomized yesterday by the fact that a fifth fast patrol boat for the Libyan navy was launched in Cherbourg in the presence of a large Libyan delegation.

Since France roundly condemned the merger between Libya and Chad and began sending troops to Africa, the French Embassy in Tripoli has been the target for demonstrations and there is growing concern for the safety of the 1,800 French citizens working in Libya.

Colonel Gaddafi said yesterday that he would keep his troops in Chad for as long as was necessary and certainly until such time as France withdrew its troops from the Central African Republic. Any aggression against the frontiers of Chad, he said, would be regarded as an attack against Libyan territory.

Although reassured by the condemnation given by 12 African heads of state meeting in Lomé, Togo, to the merger with Chad, France still sees the merger as a real military and diplomatic setback. It means the failure of its attempt begun 11 years ago to keep Libya in the Western camp by selling it 100 Mirage jets.

Referendum move: Libya and Chad will not decide to merge their two countries before the question has been put to the people of Chad in a referendum, Tripoli radio said today.

Yesterday the Organization of African Unity condemned Libya's proposed merger with Chad and demanded the immediate withdrawal of Libyan forces.—Agence France-Presse and Reuter.

Bokassa shadows, page 9

Life jail for Ulster soldiers

Two Army sergeants were jailed for life at Belfast Crown Court yesterday after they admitted murdering civilians in Northern Ireland.

Staff Sergeant Stanley Hathaway, aged 36, pleaded guilty to two killings and Sergeant John Byrne, aged 33, to one.

The court was told that Mr Michael Naan, aged 31, a farmer, and Mr Andrew Murray, aged 24, a labourer, were stabbed a total of 30 times on a farm near Newtownbutler in co Fermanagh in October, 1972.

The prosecution had said that Mr Naan was killed because he had been "uncooperative" with the soldiers' patrol, and that Mr Murray was murdered because he was a witness.

A former lance-corporal, Mr Iain Chestnut, aged 32, was jailed for four years after admitting the manslaughter of Mr Murray.

Captain Andrew Snowball, aged 27, who admitted withholding information about the killings from the police, was sentenced to one year's imprisonment, suspended for two years.

Staff Sergeant Hathaway and Sergeant Byrne had originally pleaded not guilty to murdering Mr Naan and Mr Murray.

Staff Sergeant Hathaway changed his plea to guilty on both counts and Sergeant Byrne changed his plea to guilty of the murder of Mr Murray. The charge against him of murdering Mr Naan was withdrawn.

At the time of the killings, all four men were serving in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in Northern Ireland. They were arrested in June, 1979.

Mr Justice McDermot said the four had not sought to brazen out the matter in evidence. "In my judgment, your example has been of genuine remorse." But that was no excuse.

Unmasked by conscience, page 2

Overwhelming support for Haig nomination

From David Cross
Washington, Jan 15

After the longest hearing of its kind in American history, members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee today gave their overwhelming support to Mr Alexander Haig as Secretary of State in the proposed Reagan Administration.

Fifteen members of the committee approved the nomination, including many Democrats who were originally reluctant to endorse the most controversial of Mr Reagan's Cabinet nominees. Only the two most liberal Democrats on the committee—Senator Paul Sarbanes, of Maryland, and Senator Paul Tsongas, of Massachusetts—voted against Mr Haig's suitability

Explaining their views before today's vote, the two dissenting senators said that in spite of Mr Haig's impressive performance at the hearing, he had failed to remove all their doubts about his "moral commitments". This was a reference to Mr Haig's tenure of office as White House Chief of Staff to President Nixon during the final days of the Watergate scandal.

The two senators prompted Mr Haig to lose his temper on one occasion earlier this week when they pressed him repeatedly to spell out the rights and wrongs of the Watergate era. Regaining his composure, Mr Haig finally conceded on that occasion that Watergate had been "stupid, illegal and immoral", but he strenuously denied any personal wrongdoing.

But even Senators Sarbanes and Tsongas conceded that Mr Haig had the potential to be a "great" Secretary of State. Mr Tsongas described Mr Haig as an "extraordinary man, capable, intelligent, tough, pragmatic and with a sense of history". His disapproval should be regarded as a signal of "vigilance" about Mr Haig's future leadership of the State Department, he said.

Other Democratic senators like Senator Alan Cranston of California and Senator Joseph Biden of Delaware seemed to agree with the country's need for a tough Secretary at the head of the State Department.

From their concluding comments today they would probably have endorsed former President Nixon's view on being told of Mr Haig's nomination that he would make a "hell of a Secretary of State". Mr Nixon described Mr Haig as "the meanest, toughest, most ambitious son of a bitch I ever knew".

In fact during five long days of hearings on Capitol Hill, Mr Haig disclosed a remarkable knowledge of all facets of foreign policy, including such relatively esoteric areas as international economics and finance. He also satisfied many of the more moderate Democratic members of the committee by appearing less hawkish towards the Soviet Union than they had originally feared.

The Secretary of State-designate summed up his views of the job at the end of yesterday's final hearing: "We all share the same objective. A strong America working with honour and grace".

Although there had been some "sharp exchanges" between himself and members of the committee during the hearings, this appearance on Capitol Hill had been "an extraordinary experience and a special education", he said.

Before today's vote, Senator Charles Percy, the Republican chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, said that he had asked his colleague, Senator Howard Baker, who is now the Republican Majority Leader of the Upper House, to give priority to Mr Haig when a final vote on all Mr Reagan's

Continued on page 8, col 6

Nine airmen saved after crash in sea

From Ronald Faux
Edinburgh

Nine Dutch airmen were rescued yesterday after their reconnaissance aircraft crashed west of Islay 125 miles out in the North Atlantic. The bodies of three other crew members from the naval patrol aircraft were also recovered by British helicopters.

A Mayday signal was picked up by a civilian aircraft flying between Shannon and Prestwick. The pilot of the Dutch aircraft reported control difficulties caused by icing.

Reports suggested that the Dutch aircraft had been shadowing the Russian aircraft carrier, Kiev, which was steaming with escorts about 250 miles west of the crash scene.

An RAF Nimrod aircraft sighted two life-rafts with survivors and guided two Royal Naval helicopters to the scene.

The survivors were flown to hospital in Londonderry.

Photograph, page 2

Taking the shine off 'little saucepan'

From Tim Jones
Cardiff

At the risk of being censured by the Welsh Rugby Union, *The Times* is in a position to undermine one of the great weapons used with devastating effect to ensure that 18 years have elapsed since England last won at the National Stadium, in Cardiff.

When the red shirts of Wales are in full flight, pressing inexorably towards the enemy line, or when they are desperately defending their own position, their supporters lift them to greater efforts with rousing songs.

On more than one occasion 40,000 voices singing "Bread of Heaven" or "Calon Lan" have infused the extra adrenalin required to inspire the team to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. Pundits estimate that the atmosphere at the National Stadium is worth six points to the home team.

One song, however, stands out above all others as the great battle cry of the valley men. It is "Sospan Fach", the war hymn of the principality. As its refrain sweeps down from the great stadium on to the field it saps the determination of even the strongest opposition.

Few things are more emotive than the sight of grown men, with tears in their eyes, standing ramrod straight and straining their lungs to sing "Sospan Fach". Surely its words must reflect the very soul of Wales.

Alas, it is a confidence trick on a massive scale, its secret kept until now by the fact that it is sung in Welsh. The words of this elixir, translated, go thus:

Mary Anne's finger is a-hurting,
And David the servant isn't well.
The baby in the crib is crying,
And the cat has scratch-ed little Johnny.
Little saucepan boiling on the fire,
Big saucepan boiling on the floor,
And the cat has scratch-ed little Johnny.

It is rather as if the English supporters attempted to put steel into their team at Twickenham with a rousing chorus of "Mary had a little lamb."

"Sospan Fach", of course, has a fine history, for it was penned in the last century by the notable Welsh poet, Richard Davies, whose bardic name was Mynyddog. It was performed for the first time by a student from University College of North Wales, Bangor, in 1873, to an audience of workers from Llanelli on holiday in Llanwrtyd Wells, and has endured with unfailing popularity ever since.

The English team arrived in Cardiff yesterday in the unusual position of being regarded by every expert, with the exception of the 2,750,000 in Wales, as favourites to win Saturday's game. As holders of the triple crown and the grand slam, they must have an excellent chance of defeating a Welsh team depleted of its superstars and facing a crisis of confidence.

Tomorrow's game is shaping up to be a classic, and it may require more than the information that Mary Anne's finger is a-hurting to enable the Welsh to keep their home ground record against the old enemy.

Threat of national water strike grows as further 3,500 workers vote for action

By Our Labour Reporter

The threat of industrial action in the water and sewerage industry grew last night when leaders of a large section of the membership of the dominant union in the industry voted unanimously to take action over the employers' refusal to increase their offer of a 7.9 per cent pay rise.

The General and Municipal Workers Union has about 20,000 of the 32,000 manual water workers and yesterday's vote by delegates representing about 3,500 workers in Birmingham and the West Midlands means that votes have been cast for industrial action on behalf of 8,000 GMWU members.

Other areas to vote in favour of industrial action have been the North-east and the South-west. Further regional delegate conferences are to be held next week and much will hinge on the decisions of the London and Southern region delegates.

Those areas, with the Birmingham and West Midlands region, account for about half of the union's membership in the industry. It is widely expected that those regions will also support industrial action and the National Union of Public Employees, with about ten thousand members in the water industry, is also expected to vote for industrial action.

Whether a national strike will be called will rest with the trade union negotiators who are due to meet on February 3, but there is a strong feeling among rank and file union members that the best way to prosecute the dispute would be through a national strike.

Mr Edmund Newall, GMWU national industrial officer for water, said that yesterday's decision by Midlands delegates "clearly demonstrated that the employers' views that a stoppage was remote was both misjudged and dangerously complacent."

"The public must be told that the trade unions have been placed in this position by the blanket refusal of the employers' side to enter real negotiations."

Walesa union gains the Pope's support

The Pope has received Mr Lech Walesa, the Polish Solidarity trade union leader, at the head of a delegation of 15, and expressed his support for the union, emphasizing, however, that it must remain non-political. Trade unions, he went on, "must not be the instrument for action by anyone, by any political party". The Pope concluded by recommending courage, but also prudence and moderation. Mr Walesa has accepted an invitation by West German trade unions to visit West Germany in February — Page 8

Offer may be revived

In the hope of ending the Merchant Navy dispute, shipowners are preparing to revive their 12 per cent final offer to the seamen two days after it was officially withdrawn. The union response is that such an offer must not be diminished by arbitrary overtime reductions — Page 2

Iran replies to US on hostages

The Iranian reply to the latest United States proposals concerning the freeing of the American hostages was sent to Algiers, where Mr Warren Christopher, the Deputy Secretary of State was standing by. The reply has been described as definitive — Page 8

US defence budget

President Carter proposed a defence budget totalling about £78,767m for the forthcoming financial year. That is in line with his promise to increase military spending by 5 per cent in real terms. Analysts believe the figures should not be taken too seriously — Page 8

City election inquiry

Members of the City of London Corporation are examining election procedures for aldermen and councillors after allegations of irregularities. There is particular concern about the rule which allows partners in the largest private companies to place their vote in wards where the firms have premises — Page 5

Civil Service unions ready for strikes

Strike plans have been drawn up by union leaders of more than 500,000 white collar civil servants in anticipation of a refusal by the Government to offer them pay rises of more than about 6 per cent. The action would include a short national strike and a campaign at government computer operations — Page 2

£106m bid for UDT

United Dominions Trust (UDT), one of Britain's largest hire purchase and finance groups, which ran into difficulties during the secondary banking crisis in the mid-1970s, has received a £106m takeover offer from Lloyds & Scottish, a competitor group controlled jointly by Lloyds Bank and the Royal Bank of Scotland — Page 17

Corsicans end fast

Six Corsican autonomists have decided to end their hunger strike in prison after the French Court of State Security ruled that they would be tried in their absence on charges of kidnapping and belonging to an armed band — Page 7

Drug man's death

Simply as a matter of business, a leading member of an international drug syndicate had to die, a jury was told at Lancaster Crown Court. The man's body, it was stated, was found in a quarry with the hands cut off and a wound in his stomach — Page 4

Yacht sold: A Swiss passer by bought Sir Francis Chichester's Gypsy Moth III for £30,000 on a London pavement — 5

Confidentiality: New clause designed to protect journalists' sources was withdrawn when committee stage of Contempt of Court Bill opened in the Lords — 6

France: Electricity authority agrees to modify design for controversial nuclear power station at Plogoff — 7

Classified advertisements: Appointments, page 18; Car buyers' guide, 22

Union leaders draw up plan for strike by 500 civil servants to challenge Government curb on pay

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

Union leaders representing more than 500,000 white collar civil servants have drawn up plans for strikes and other forms of industrial action that would pose the most comprehensive challenge so far to the Government's attempts to curtail pay rises for public sector workers.

Broad outlines of the unions' plans encompass a short-term national strike by all the nine unions, which will probably last for one day or two half days, after which there would be a campaign of action primarily aimed at government operations.

Areas to be disrupted by longer-term selective strikes are likely to include government computer centres such as those concerned with value-added tax. Such action could have a serious effect on the Government's financial planning and the public sector borrowing requirement.

A third phase of action may be unannounced walkouts, protest meetings during working time, working to rule, overtime bans and withdrawal of cooperation and good will. The programme of action is expected to start by late February or early March.

The unions have drawn up the plans in preparation for the expected reply from the Government to the union's claim of pay increases of between 15 and 20 per cent. The unions believe they will be offered about 6 per cent.

The unions have also been angered by the Government's decision to make cash limits the criterion for settling pay increases for civil servants this spring instead of the pay research exercise that compares the pay of civil servants with that of employees doing similar jobs in private industry.

Final decisions have yet to be taken, but the unions are aiming to launch a strike fund of at least £3m to finance the industrial action.

Several of the unions have large reserves and some are ordering a levy on their members to raise additional finance in recognition of the fact that action could be prolonged and costly.

The two main unions, the Civil and Public Services Association and the Society of Civil and Public Servants, are to hold one-day conferences this month to discuss pay. The conferences are expected to endorse the moves for industrial action.

Pay negotiations, which the unions expect to be of a superficial nature in view of the Prime Minister's statement last year that cash limits will be the basis on which Civil Service pay increases are awarded, are expected to start early next month.

Mr William Kendall, secretary-general of the Council of Civil Service Unions, which is the umbrella body for the nine unions, said last night that the aim of the action would be to secure a reasonable settlement for this year and a settled system of pay negotiations for later years.

"I think it is inevitable that there will be industrial action by civil servants this year, and the fault will lie not with us but with the Government", he said.



One of the nine survivors from the Dutch aircraft which crashed into the Atlantic being taken to Altnagelvin Hospital, in Londonderry, yesterday. The hospital said they were doing well.

Mr Foot's challenge on rise in tax 'take'

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

Realization that unchanged tax rates can mean an increase in the tax "take" by the Government at last dawned yesterday on Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, and other Labour MPs.

The report in *The Times* on Tuesday explaining that likelihood as a result of the Government's determination not to raise the rates of personal income tax had earlier been used by Mr Foot to taunt Mrs Margaret Thatcher over possible "leaks". He then took it to mean "that there is to be no increase in income tax in the next Budget".

Yesterday Mr Foot, newly apprised, asked Mrs Thatcher at question time in the Commons to agree that the Government had, in spite of income tax cuts, increased the overall real burden of taxation since it came into office.

Mrs Thatcher did not have to agree, since the fact had been stated by Mr Nigel Lawson, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, in his speech at Zurich on Wednesday, which she praised as "intelligent".

The Prime Minister remarked that there had been no increase in personal income tax; the Government had increased its "take" in indirect taxes.

However, a group of Labour backbenchers belatedly discovering from Tuesday's newspaper reports that the Government was contemplating not raising personal allowances in line with inflation protested that that was "as straightforward a tax increase as it is possible to have".

Indicating, perhaps, their own initial reading, they chose to complain that the headlines over the reports had been misleading. A commons early day motion sponsored by Mr Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Grimsby, asserted that *The Times*, the *Financial Times* and *The Guardian* "appear to have been victims of government news management on a massive scale . . . using headlines, repeated extensively by the BBC, giving the impression that the Government have ruled out personal income tax increases".

In fact, *The Times* headline read "Personal tax rates to escape Budget increase".

Shipowners may revive 'final' offer

By Paul Routledge

Shipping employers are preparing to revive their 12 per cent "final" pay offer to union leaders of the *striking* seamen only two days after it was *officially withdrawn*.

That was made clear yesterday by senior negotiators of the General Council of British Shipping who were responding to suggestions in the media that the offer might prove acceptable to the National Union of Seamen if it was reshuffled.

But officials of the NUS were sceptical last night that such an offer would be accepted unless it could be proved that at least 12 per cent would be paid, and not partially clawed back by arbitrary reductions in overtime aboard ship.

The hint of a shift in the employers' attitude came after a meeting of the general council's industrial relations committee, when the shipowners' chief negotiator, Mr Roderick McLeod, said: "We do not rule out the possibility of a return to 12 per cent in future pay negotiations."

Meanwhile, Mr James Slater, general secretary of the NUS, told a mass meeting of seamen in Hull that the dispute would end if the shipowners were prepared to go to arbitration.

The employers, while ready to reopen *talks* about the possible distribution of their 12 per cent offer, insist that the offer is final.

New Orleans—A British grain carrier, Federal Clyde, remained anchored in the Mississippi yesterday, her 16 seamen on strike and her officers refusing them access to hot food.

The crew said officers raised the anchor and manned the wheel without the assistance of seamen. They were later told after they had declared a full strike that galley stoves were out of bounds. The captain was said to have cancelled an order for steaks listed in provisions.—AP.

Steelmen reject BSC 'survival plan'

By Our Labour Editor

Steelworkers in the industry's largest union are understood to have voted "No" to the British Steel Corporation's "survival plan", involving 22,000 redundancies.

Unofficial but reliable reports from the Sheffield area last night indicated that South Yorkshire steelmen, who are among the most militant, had registered a 73 per cent rejection of the closure programme in a ballot conducted by the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC).

That result ties in with *reports filtering in from* other steelmaking areas that despite acceptance of nearly 1,000 job cuts at Port Talbot and Llanwern last week, the steel process workers are showing loyalty to the union rather than to Mr Ian MacGregor, the corporation's chairman.

The outcome of a rival ballot of the entire BSC workforce is due to be announced soon and the corporation expects that it will show a majority in favour of its package of job and production cutbacks.

On Thames Television's *TV Eye* programme last night, Mr MacGregor said that if the survival plan did not succeed then *the industry would face* "very substantially harsher decisions" by the middle of this year. The industry had not been efficient until recently.

The Sheffield ISTC sources said that 73 per cent of local steelmen had voted against "proposition two" of the union's ballot, which asked: "Do you endorse the corporate plan, which will create at least 22,000 further redundancies?"

They had also voted against the corporation's proposal of a voluntary pay freeze until July 1, followed by 7 per cent wage rises.

Reports from other steelmaking areas with less firm figures have supported that general outcome, which will pose a serious dilemma for the British Steel management,

Workers end restrictions

From Ronald Kershaw
Sheffield

Workers at one of Sheffield's leading special steels and engineering companies have taken the unusual step of calling an end to shop floor restrictive practices. They hope to help the company through the recession and at the same time avoid redundancies.

The management of Firth Brown, which has welcomed the move, believes that the new attitude will bring in work when orders are low.

The initiative came from the company's joint shop stewards committee, which obtained an agreement at a mass meeting for a ban on almost all operating restrictions among the 400 men in the company's machine shop.

Firth Brown employs 4,500 people and similar meetings in the forge and hot working departments are being arranged for next week.

The machine shop decision will mean cooperation on work sharing, flexibility of working to ensure orders are met and an end to spinning out tasks to avoid short-time working.

Mr Jack Illingworth, the shop stewards' chairman, said last night: "We want to foster a better attitude of mind and create a greater awareness of the acute situation the industry is in.

"Restrictive practices have crept in over the years. We are asking the man who has an order to work on, to get it through, even though some of his workmates may be laid off."

A conscience betrayed killers

A former soldier with a troubled conscience was so horrified by a killing in Huddersfield that he gave police a tip-off in May, 1978, that led to the solving of two gruesome murder mysteries in Ulster six years earlier.

The leads pointed to soldiers of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, who in 1972, the most violent year in Northern Ireland's recent history, had been camping in south-east Fermanagh.

For the man thought he recognized similarities between the murder of a prostitute Helen Rytka, in Huddersfield and the deaths of a farmer, Mr Mickey Naan, aged 31, and his labourer, Mr Andrew Murray, aged 24, in co Fermanagh.

Police in Huddersfield passed the information he gave to Ulster detectives, who had virtually given up hope of solving the murders.

The tipster, speaking with a Scottish accent, said the killings were by men he once patrolled with in Northern Ireland.

Mr Naan and Mr Murray were found dead on Mr Naan's 50-acre farm near Newtownbutler, two miles from the border with co Cavan. Protestant extremists, avenging the killing of a part-time UDR man on a neighbouring farm, were blamed. Until the call from Huddersfield, the RUC agreed with the theory.

One of the names given to the police in Huddersfield was "Hathley", but what the tipster meant to say was "Hathaway", Staff Sergeant Stanley Hathaway, who knifed the pair after a violent argument with Mr Naan.

But it took the best part of a year and a national police search before he was caught. Eventually trapped as well were his two accomplices, who pinned Mr Murray, the only witness, to the ground while he was knifed.

Also caught was an officer who covered up the affair, Captain Andrew Snowball, aged 27, then a second lieutenant.

Captain Snowball had suspected that his platoon commander, Staff Sergeant Hathaway, and the other two, Sergeant John Byrne, aged 33, and Lance Corporal Iain Chestnut, were involved in the killings. *But he decided not to voice his* suspicions for the sake of the regiment's reputation.

According to Belfast detectives, the tipster now lives in fear of vengeance by other former members of the regiment.

A senior detective said: "I am sure some of them know who he is, and as far as they are concerned he broke a strict barrack room rule and squealed. But he had been under enormous pressure."

He believed that the Ulster killings were connected with the death in Huddersfield. After the young girl's death he felt he had to tell somebody.

At no time were Hathaway, Byrne or Chestnut questioned, or even suspected of murders in England, the detective said.

According to friends, Mr Naan was a civil rights activist and not, as the Army had suspected, a terrorist.

In 1972 Ulster was in uproar. Sectarian assassinations were happening throughout the province and more than 20,000 *soldiers were stationed there*.

The Argylls camped near Mr Naan's farm for a couple of days. The night before they left, Mr Naan's body was found in a byre and Mr Murray's in a slurry pit nearby. Both had been brutally stabbed in the heart and chest, Mr Naan 17 times and Mr Murray 13.

Then, more than five years later, detectives got their first real lead.

The Ulster detectives worked with two Army Special Investigation Branch men, who produced a list of more than 300 names of Argylls who had served in Ulster.

With the exception of Chestnut, who was working as an assistant oil rigger, the other three were still in the Army.

Hathaway, then serving in West Germany, told his interrogators: "I did the killings. I killed them. I have been having nightmares about it".

Retired headmaster wins libel action

Newspaper allegations about *thrashings* at Hawtreys, the boys' preparatory school in Wiltshire, were monstrous and untrue, Mr Justice Stocker was told in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Michael Goodeve-Docker, headmaster of the school for many years, now retired, and his wife, accepted substantial damages in settlement of their *libel* action against *News Group* Newspapers and Mr David Llewellyn.

The two complained of reminiscences by Mr Llewellyn in three articles in the *News of the World* last January. Mr Llewellyn and his brother, Mr Roderick Llewellyn, had been at school at Hawtreys and he alleged that they had both been thrashed.

Mr James Price, for Mr and Mrs Goodeve-Docker, of Rectory Road, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset, said that the newspaper article on January 27 stated: "There was a huge fuss last year when he (Mr Roderick Llewellyn) said in the course of a woman's magazine article that he had been beaten at prep school until the blood ran down his legs. Critics said that this was obviously untrue.

"In fact it was true . . . if children were now thrashed in the way Roddy and I were, they would be taken away from the school and those responsible might even be prosecuted. At Hawtreys the beatings were performed by the then headmaster, Mr Michael Goodeve-Docker."

Counsel said the newspaper unwisely relied on Mr Llewellyn's assurance that that account was true and accurate. They now recognized it was quite untrue.

Mr Charles Gray, for the newspaper, said they published the article in good faith on Mr Llewellyn's assurance that it was accurate.

Mr Desmond Browne, for Mr David Llewellyn, apologized and said he accepted that the article was untrue.

Radio-linked motor cycles to speed PO mail service

By Our Business News Staff

Twenty small Japanese motor cycles will take to the streets of London in the spring to herald the latest service being launched by the Post Office.

The corporation, faced with the need to compete with the private sector and the host of dispatch riders operating in London, is trying to beat them at their own game.

The "Motor Cycle Expresspost" using radio-controlled machines, is intended to provide collection within 30 minutes of a telephone request, and delivery within two hours, throughout the London area. The radio will enable customers' requests for collection of mail to be transmitted to motor cycles on the road.

The announcement is the latest in a series of moves designed to make the posts and giro side of the Post Office more competitive with the services which the private sector will be allowed to offer after legislation has been approved by Parliament.

Public hearing possible for Nationality Bill

By Our Political Correspondent

Mr Francis Pym, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Leader of the House of Commons, yesterday agreed to consider a request that the Nationality Bill, which has come under attack by immigrants' and civil rights groups, should be the subject of the new procedure being introduced for some Government Bills.

As an experiment the House has decided that selected Bills should be subject to an open examination before the committee stage begins.

The standing committee appointed to examine the Bill would hold three sittings, where individuals and organizations could put their views. Those views would be taken into account when the committee considered the Bill.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, has argued that the Nationality Bill is a constitutional measure and that therefore all stages must be taken *on the floor of the House. But* as a "fall-back" position many Labour MPs say that the Bill should be the subject of the new public hearing procedure.

Mr Pym will give the Government's view after he has taken soundings among MPs of all parties.

Business vote plan aired

By Our Political Editor

The question of restoration of the business vote in local government elections was reopened yesterday by the Prime Minister, somewhat to the mystification of ministers.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, at question time, ventured that "the rating system is under review", and that the lack of a vote for businesses and commerce "certainly needs having a look at".

The Conservatives have for years been talking about abolishing the rates system yet circumstances and time have always thwarted them.

Mrs Thatcher had to curb her enthusiasm by admitting that the party's manifesto had not indicated that the rates could be abolished during the lifetime of this Parliament.

Ministers could not immediately explain the Prime Minister's reference to a review. They explained that the Government's economic inheritance from Labour had made it impractical to contemplate the reform in this Parliament.

British group plans £1,730m Channel rail tunnel

Tarmac Ltd, the Midland-based construction company, emerged yesterday as the first organization to submit detailed plans to the Government for building and operating a Channel tunnel financed by British and foreign private interests.

The company, which is working in association with the merchant bankers, Robert Fleming, expects that its scheme could be completed by the year 2000 and would cost £1,730m at today's prices.

Based on the Channel tunnel scheme suspended in 1975, the proposals outline the construction of a two-track rail link between terminals near Folkestone and Frethun, near Calais.

The scheme would enable the first trains carrying passengers and goods to be operating within 10 years through a single rail tunnel

The final phase of the project would involve the addition of a second tunnel on the other side of the service tunnel to allow for two-way traffic."

Mr Eric Pountain, chief executive of Tarmac, said yesterday that discussions held with "various organizations in France and elsewhere on the Continent confirmed their interest".

Tarmac's scheme is considerably more expensive than the favourite project which has yet to be submitted to the Government by British Rail and its French counterpart. That envisages a single-track rail tunnel costing about £800m.

Apart from the advantage of two-way rail traffic, Tarmac says it will not not be seeking any public funds.

Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Transport, has made clear that the Government will not provide any money.

Mr Fowler is expected to approve a scheme before the end of the year.

MPs' concern about buyer for 'The Times'

A group of Conservative and Labour MPs last night formally expressed their concern that *The Times, The Sunday Times* and the weekly supplements might be sold to an owner "already in possession of substantial press holdings".

A Commons early day motion was tabled last night and is sponsored by Mr Phillip Whitehead, Labour MP for Derby, North, and Mr Jonathan Aitken, Conservative MP for Thanet, East. It said:

This House is concerned that Times Newspapers Ltd may be sold to a buyer already in possession of substantial press holdings, thus further diminishing the plurality of ownership and diversity of opinion in Fleet Street; calls for any such bid to be subjected to stringent examination by the Monopolies Commission; and declares its support for the sale of *The Times, The Sunday Times* and the suplements to owners who will maintain the editorial freedom and independence from other press empires.

Councils 'defying education Act on handicapped'

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

At least half of the education authorities in England and Wales may be breaking the law by failing to provide education and training for all handicapped people aged 16 to 19 who request it, the Advisory Centre for Education (ACE) said yesterday.

That local authorities have a duty under the Education Act, 1944, to make education and training provision for all 16 to 19-year-olds who want it, including the handicapped, has come to light only recently as a result of a parents' action group, formed to fight Oxfordshire's decision because of spending cuts to cease providing education beyond 16 for the mentally handicapped in the south-east of the county from July.

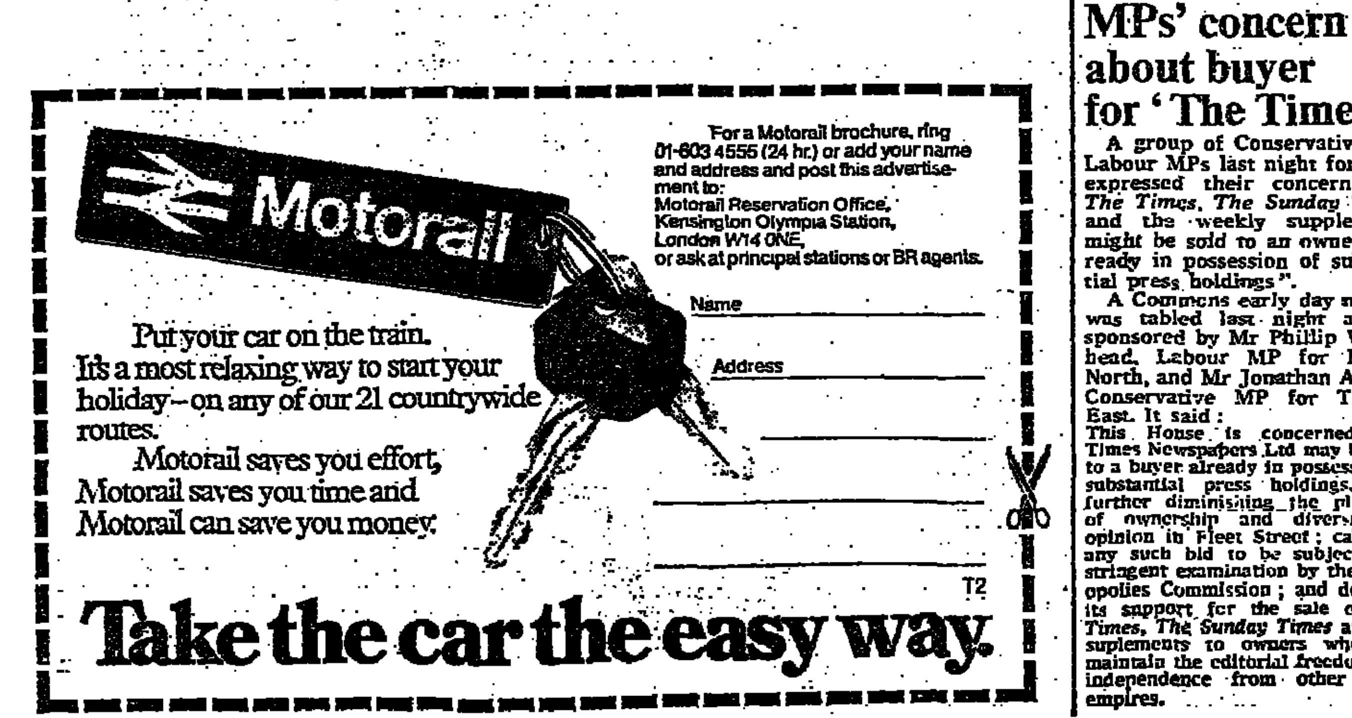
Last June the group appealed to Mr Mark Carlisle, the Secretary of State, to use his powers to compel the authority to carry out its duty under the law. The Department of Education and Science has told them that it was still making inquiries into the Oxfordshire authority's plans.

The parents have also written to their local MP, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, asking for his help. He told them it was up to the individual authority to decide how they were to achieve the spending cuts required.

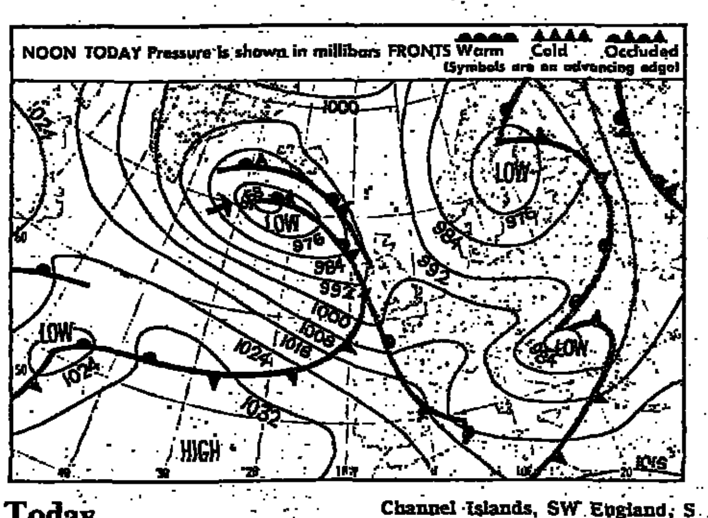
Mr Timothy Brighouse, chief education officer for Oxfordshire, has agreed to attend a public meeting organized by the group next Wednesday.

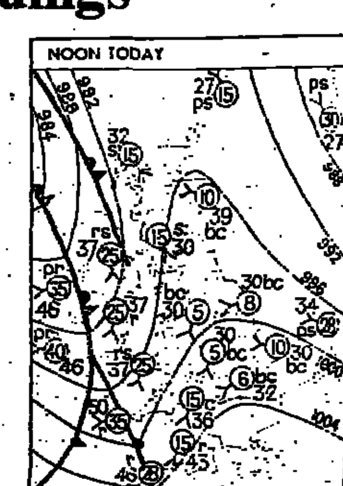
He has written to the group saying that the education committee and the officers were sympathetic to the needs of mentally handicapped young people, and that they hoped to make suitable provision for them in all parts of the county "as soon as money is available".

The advisory centre has written to special schools for the mentally handicapped in 40 education authorities asking if such provision was available for all handicapped young people who requested it.



Weather forecast and recordings





b—blue sky; bc—half clouded; c—cloudy; o—overcast; f—fog; d—drizzle; h—hail; m—mist; r—rain; s—snow; th—thunderstorm; p—showers; pr—periodical rain with snow. Wind speed in mph.

Today

Sun rises: 7.59 am Sun sets: 4.23 pm
Moon sets: 3.45 am Moon rises: 1.15 pm
Full moon: January 20.

Lighting up: 4.53 pm to 7.28 am.
High water: London Bridge, 9.48 am, 6.4m; 10.40 pm, 6.6m. Avonmouth, 2.54 am, 10.5m; 3.40 pm, 11.0m Dover, 6.56 am; 5.8m; 7.42 pm, 5.8m. Hull, 1.54 am, 6.7m; 2.36 pm, 6.5m. Liverpool, 7.27 am, 8.0m; 7.57 pm, 8.3m.
1ft=0.3048m. 1m=3.2808ft.

Troughs of low pressure will move E across Britain. Apart from snow showers in NE Scotland, most places will start dry, with bright or sunny periods in central and E parts.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:

London, SE, E England, East Anglia: Dry at first with sunny periods, becoming cloudy, with sleet or snow spreading E, later turning to rain; wind NW, light, backing S, increasing to fresh or strong; max temp 3°C (37°F).

Central S, NW, central England, Midlands: Dry and bright at first, cloud spreading E with sleet or snow, turning to rain before clearing in evening; wind S, light, increasing to fresh or strong, veering W; max temp 3° or 4°C (37° to 39°F).

Channel Islands, SW England, S Wales: Cloudy with rain, preceded by sleet or snow on hills, clearer with showers later; wind S, fresh, veering W, strong to gale; max temp 6° to 9°C (43° to 48°F).

N Wales, Isle of Man, N Ireland: Cloudy, with sleet or snow spreading E, turning to rain, showers and clear intervals later; wind SE, fresh or strong, veering W; max temp 6°C (43°F).

Lake District, SW Scotland, Argyll: Dry and bright at first, cloudy, with sleet or snow spreading E, turning to rain at low levels, then clearing; wind SE, strong to gale, veering W; max temp 3°C (37°F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Glasgow, Central Highlands, NW Scotland: Mostly dry with sunny periods, becoming cloudy with sleet or snow, heavy falls possible, especially on hills; wind W, backing SE, light, increasing to strong; max temp 2°C (36°F).

Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Scattered snow showers, sunny intervals, more cloudy later; wind NW, moderate, backing SE or E, fresh; max temp 1°C or 2°C (34°F to 36°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Sleet or snow in NE at first, otherwise sunny intervals and showers, wintry in N; further rain spreading to SW.

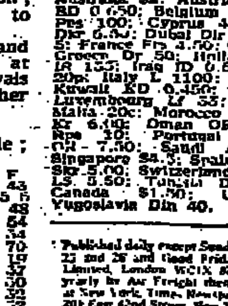
Sea passages: S North Sea, Straits of Dover: Wind NW, backing SW, moderate, increasing to strong, occasionally gale force; sea moderate, becoming rough.

English Channel (E): Wind W to SW, fresh, increasing to gale force; sea moderate, becoming rough.

St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind S, veering W, fresh, increasing to gale force; sea moderate, becoming rough.

Yesterday

London: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 5°C (41°F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 3°C (37°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 73 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm, 0.05in. Sun, 24hr to 6 pm, 2.7hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,003.6 millibars steady.
1,000 millibars = 29.53in.

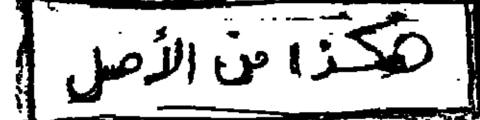


WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sl, sleet; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Akrotiri	r	14	67	Cologne	sn	3	37	Luxembrg	c	0	32	Paris	f	6	43
Algiers	f	14	57	Copnhgn	f	2	36	Madrid	f	10	50	Reykjavik	s	-15	5
Amstrdm	sn	1	34	Florence	d	0	32	Malorca	c	15	59	Rome	r	9	48
Athens	f	15	59	Funchal	c	17	63	Malaga	c	11	52	S Frncsco	f	12	54
Barbados	f	29	84	Geneva	c	2	36	Malta	r	11	52	Stockholm	c	1	34
Barcelona	c	12	54	Gibraltar	f	13	55	Miami	s	23	73	Tel Aviv	c	21	70
Belfast	sn	2	36	Helsinki	sn	[illegible]	25	Montreal	s	-14	7	Toronto	c	-7	19
Berlin	f	2	36	Innsbruck	f	3	37	Moscow	c	[illegible]	23	Vancvr	fog	3	37
Bermuda	c	19	66	Istanbul	s	10	50	Munich	f	1	34	Venice	c	-1	30
Biarritz	r	11	52	L Palmas	c	16	61	Naples	c	9	48	Vienna	s	0	32
Brussels	f	3	37	Lisbon	c	13	55	N York	c	-3	27	Warsaw	sn	0	32
Budapest	sn	-4	25	Locarno	c	1	34	Nice	s	15	59	Wshngtn	c	3	37
Chicago	sn	-3	27	London	sl	5	41	Oslo	f	-1	30	Zurich	f	1	34

Overseas selling prices
Australia $2; Austria Sch 20; Bahrain BD 0.650; Belgium B frs 35; Canaries Pes 100; Cyprus 400 mils; Denmark Dkr 6.50; Dubai Dir 7.00; Finland Mkk 5; France Frs 4.50; Germany Dm 3.00; Greece Dr 50; Holland Gl 2.50; Iran IR 135; Iraq ID 0.600; Irish Republic 20p; Italy L 1100; Jordan LD 0.425; Kuwait KD 0.450; Lebanon LL 4.00; Luxembourg Lf 35; Madeira Esc 50; Malta 20c; Morocco Dir 5.00; Norway Kr 6.00; Oman OR 0.700; Pakistan Rps 30; Portugal Esc 80; Qatar QR 7.50; Saudi Arabia SR 3.25; Singapore $4.5; Spain Pes 100; Sweden Skr 5.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Syria LS 5.50; Tunisia Din .450; US and Canada $1.50; UAE Dir 7.00; Yugoslavia Din 40.

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The least expensive three door hatchback in Britain.

Only £2849† in spite of inflation.

Did you think you'd have to pay over £3,000 for a hatchback as advanced as the Fiesta? Or otherwise settle for a second hand car?

Well, you don't any more. Because now Ford introduce the Fiesta Popular.

The Popular has all the engineering features that make the Fiesta so economical. And all the space that makes it so comfortable.

But in spite of inflation, you can buy one new for only £2849†. So it's extraordinary value for money. It actually costs less than any comparable car.

But then Ford have always done their utmost to keep the cost of motoring in check...

Spend less on petrol.

The Popular has the Fiesta's advanced 957cc (40BHP DIN) engine.

So although it has plenty of get up and go, it knows how to conserve its energy.

Maximum speed is over 80 mph**. And, at a constant 56 mph, a gallon of two star will take you over 50 miles.*

Spend less on service.

Soon after it was introduced the original Fiesta won a Design Council award for low cost of ownership.

The Popular has all the same mechanical components that contributed to that award. Like the self-adjusting clutch. And brakes that can be checked for wear without removing the wheels.

1. Diagonally split dual brake circuits with front discs.
2. Folding back seat gives 42.6 cu ft of luggage space.
3. Laminated windscreen for safety.
4. Negative scrub suspension geometry helps you stop straight if you have a blow out.
5. Aeroflow ventilation system with two speed fan.
6. MacPherson strut front suspension with coil springs all round, smooth the rough.
7. Rack and pinion steering. Quick and Precise.
8. Self-adjusting clutch saves servicing.
9. Advanced 950cc engine designed for simple maintenance.
10. Aerodynamically efficient grille with drag reducing louvres.

It goes 12,000 miles between standard services with only a minor service at 6,000.

Its parts are moderately priced and the car is simple to repair so insurance premiums are usually very competitive.

And the body is protected by a 19 stage anti-rust treatment which includes total immersion in anti-corrosive paint and wax injection into doors and box sections.

This naturally helps keep resale value up.

Enjoy more space.

Like all Fiestas, the Popular is either a very roomy four seater or a simply huge two seater.

Its luggage capacity with its back seats folded is 42.6 cu ft and a low rear sill makes it easy to load. With so much space to stretch out in, and with coil springs all round, you'll be very comfortable.

If you'd like a little extra equipment, there's also a Fiesta Popular Plus which has such additional attractions as a rear package tray, rear screen wash/wipe, cloth trim and a centre console with clock.

And if you'd like a little extra protection, you can ask for Extra Cover – Ford's optional warranty. It takes over when your first 12 month warranty expires. One year extra costs £48††, two years costs £96††.

Both Popular and Popular Plus are at your Ford dealers now.



†Fiesta Popular £2849, Fiesta Popular Plus from £3160. Maximum prices as at December 10th, 1980. Seat belts, car tax and VAT included. Delivery and number plates at extra cost.

*Government fuel consumption tests for Fiesta 950cc 40 BHP DIN. Constant 56 mph (90 kmh) – 50.4 mpg (5.6 litres/100 km). Constant 75 mph (120 kmh) – 34.4 mpg (8.2 litres/100 km). Simulated Urban Cycle – 35.8 mpg (7.9 litres/100 km). **Ford computed figures. ††Excluding VAT.

Drug syndicate member had to die as matter of business, QC says

From Arthur Osman
Lancaster

A leading member of a worldwide drug syndicate had to die simply as a matter of business, it was alleged at Lancaster Crown Court yesterday.

Martin Johnstone, a New Zealander, had offended fellow members in the syndicate, which was at war with society, by sheer changing on money accounts and by diluting heroin supplied to another member, it was added.

Mr Michael Maguire, QC, opening the case for the Crown against five men accused of Mr Johnstone's murder, said: "When New Zealand and Australia grew too hot for the syndicate they moved to Britain."

But Mr Johnstone, who had opened the United Kingdom operation, was in the way and Mr Maguire continued: "He had to be removed. There was nothing personal about this, it was simply a matter of business. He strode high, wide and handsome throughout the world, spending his money. Everyone liked him—it was strictly business."

Mr Maguire said that on October 14, 1979, two members of Newton-le-Willows Sub Aqua Club were exploring the waters of Delph Quarry, at Eccleston, near Chorley, Lancashire.

One of them, a Mr Ashcroft, saw at a depth of 25 feet the naked body of a man, weighted down, without hands and with a terrible wound in the stomach.

The body, which the police recovered, had the legs tied together with blue nylon cord, to which were attached two 14lb weights and two 56lb weights. There was another piece of cord round the neck and the arms were attached to a vehicle jack. The cause of death undoubtedly was the first of two bullets fired into the head at point-blank range with a .38 calibre revolver. The body was identified as that of Mr Johnstone.

Mr Maguire, who said Mr Johnstone was a senior member of the drugs syndicate, continued: "A syndicate at war with society, at war with world society, peddling misery and slow death in New Zealand, Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom."

Counsel said that in September, 1979, Mr Sinclair had made clear to Mr Maher, who was a subordinate of Mr Johnstone in the hierarchy, that Mr Johnstone had to go. "It was the order from the syndicate boss that Johnstone was to be killed. Maher played the Judas."

Mr Maher telephoned to Mr Johnstone in Singapore and told him he had negotiated a drugs deal in Scotland and that the people involved wanted Mr Johnstone's personal attendance. That was a lie and a charade, counsel added, for there was no drugs deal. It was designed to bring him to Britain, and he swallowed the bait.

Mr Kirby, another member of the syndicate, bought an axe, weights and cord. Barbara Pilkington, who lived with Mr Maher, made one-way reservations with Singapore Airlines for Mr Johnstone and a woman named Julie Hu.

Mr Maguire said that on October 7 Mr Maher, Mr Smith, another member of the syndicate, and Mr Johnstone set out for Scotland in Mr Maher's Jaguar car. Mr Johnstone, shoulder to shoulder with his friend and business associate for many years, believed he was on his way to negotiate with drug pedlars in Scotland but Maher and Smith knew full well that his life would expire at the first convenient opportunity north of Lancaster, "and so it did".

Two shots were fired, at least one inside the car. Mr Johnstone's body was taken to Mr Maher's home and was put in the garage. With an axe Mr Maher and Mr Smith hacked off the hands at the wrist.

With a lump hammer Mr Johnstone's face was disfigured because it was thought that the body might surface through an accumulation of gas in the stomach. The stomach was opened to prevent that.

The trial continues today.

The accused

The five accused of murder are: Alexander James Sinclair, aged 36, of Stafford Court, Kensington, London; Andrew Samuel Maher, aged 27, of Robin Hey, Leyland, Lancashire; James Smith, aged 23, of Derwood Drive, Livingston, Lanarkshire; Frederick Charles Russell, aged 39, of Prince of Wales Road, Kentish Town, London; and Keith William Kirby, aged 27, of Clayton Brook, Lancashire.

Like the five men, the six other defendants in the dock are also accused of contraventions of the Misuse of Drugs Act. They are: Jack Kelvin Barclay, aged 27, of Briar Close, Finchley; Errol John Blackmann, aged 32, of High Road, Leyton; Karen Mary Marie Scotch, aged 24, of Stafford Court, Kensington; Christopher Scott Blackman, aged 36, of Princess Road, Regent's Park, all London; Kingsley Fagan, aged 27, of Craigneuk, Lanarkshire, and Sylvester Alphonsus Pidgeon, aged 41, of Truro Road, Walthamstow.

Mrs Leila Constance Barclay, aged 49, of Briar Close, Finchley, has pleaded guilty to conspiring to import and supply controlled drugs contrary to the 1971 Act.



Photograph by Harry Kerr

Two of 684 items of farming equipment collected by the late Miss Olive Lloyd-Baker at Hardwicke Court, Gloucester, now to be shown in the disused Northleach House of Correction, in Gloucestershire.

Unions likely to back half share for PLP

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

The trade union majority vote is expected to support giving the Parliamentary Labour Party a half share in the electoral college for choosing the party leader at the special conference on January 24.

That was the firm impression gained last night after a meeting earlier this week of the working party set up by the Trades Unions for Labour Victory organization. Trade union general secretaries on it are to meet the day before the conference.

If the prediction is correct, the result will come as a great relief to Mr Michael Foot, the party leader, who has been arguing for the parliamentary party's half stake in the Shadow Cabinet and the national executive committee.

The PLP wants half and if the trade unions vote in favour Mr Foot will undoubtedly turn the result to good use in his efforts to maintain unity at a time when some right-wing backbenchers are suggesting breaking away because of the threatened erosion of PLP independence.

But Mr Foot and his Shadow Cabinet colleagues are exercising caution in predicting the final result at the conference. Experience has told them that nothing can be confidently predicted.

The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers has yet to decide and could abstain on all proposals, a trade unionist said last night.

It is understood that the National Union of Mineworkers yesterday decided to support giving half to the PLP, with a quarter going to the trade unions and a quarter to the constituency parties.

The other options before the party conference include: one member, one vote; 33 per cent each for the three groups and 1 per cent for socialist and cooperative societies (recommended by the national executive); and a compromise 40-30-30.

The compromise, it is suggested, is unlikely to attract the left, which is expected to back the executive, or the right, which supports one member, one vote; the latter switching to supporting 50-25-25.

The one member, one vote proposal is expected to be the first to be voted down.

MP tells of differences in the Manifesto Group

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

A leading member of the right-wing Manifesto Group of Labour MPs yesterday confirmed that members had discussed leaving the party, but opinion had differed whether they should make the break or stay to fight for their ideals.

Mr Ian Wrigglesworth, MP for Teesside, Thornaby, said the difference was between "some of us who feel that everything that we could possibly do has been done, and that it has failed", and the others.

He said he had spent much time in the past few years fighting for the things he believed in and for the Labour Party as he thought most people in the country understood it, but had not been successful.

In an interview in ITN's *News at One*, Mr Wrigglesworth said the party had moved to the left and there were serious constitutional issues facing MPs. Many were taking stock of their position.

He thought some MPs would leave the Labour Party. "I am in the process of thinking the thing through, discussing it with people outside politics. . . . I will make my decision in the light of the party special conference on January 24", he said.

Mr Wrigglesworth said that if he decided to leave, he would want to be in a party that was "in favour of being in the Western Alliance, against vast differences in wealth, that wants to break down class barriers, that wants a lot of the things that people understand the Labour Party as having stood for for decades now".

Asked about the Liberals, Mr Wrigglesworth said Mr David Steel's 10-point programme was "entirely social democratic". It was very much in the tradition of the late Mr Anthony Crosland.

No 10 reception for disabled 'irrelevant'

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

The president of the National Federation of the Blind has told the Prime Minister that her reception next Monday to mark the International Year of Disabled People is an "obscene irrelevance". Mr Colin Low, aged 38, a blind lecturer in law at Leeds University, has declined an invitation to attend.

Mr Low will instead join a deputation of representatives from various disability organizations which is hoping to present Mrs Thatcher with a resolution calling on the Government to fulfil its election promises to disabled people.

The deputation plans to arrive at 10 Downing Street as the reception is due to start, although Mrs Thatcher's private office has indicated that it will not be received.

Mr Low, who is a member of the committee organizing the international year, cites in his letter to Mrs Thatcher survey evidence that "put its beyond dispute" that disabled people are suffering disproportionately from social service cuts.

In the circumstances, he says, "I regard a party for the privileged few while the mass of the disabled suffer in the country as an obscene irrelevance".

Members of waste quango in limbo seek decision

By David Nicholson-Lord

Members of a quango which has not met for almost two years yesterday called for it to be either abolished or reconstituted, and criticized the Government for leaving them in limbo.

The Waste Management Advisory Council was set up six years ago after the Labour Government published a Green Paper, *War on Waste*. It was to be the main coordinator for the "new national effort to conserve and reclaim scarce resources" and was to research ways of reducing industrial and household rubbish, including recycling. The National Anti-Waste Programme was launched under its auspices.

The council last met in April, 1979, and since then, said Lady White, the Labour peer who acted as chairman for that meeting, members have received no word of the Government's intentions.

Prince asks press to go from Sandringham

The Prince of Wales yesterday appealed to pressmen near Sandringham to go away. Lady Diana Spencer had earlier left the royal estate after a visit.

During a lunch break in a pheasant shoot the Prince said to photographers at a village public house: "Do go away. The Queen will be very pleased if you did. I promise you there is nobody here."

Mr Prior wants vigorous debate on his review of trade union immunities

By Paul Routledge
and David Felton
Labour Staff

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, published yesterday his department's long-awaited review of trade union immunities, with a plea for a "vigorous and wide-ranging debate" on the issue.

He argued that there was a need for greater understanding of how trade unions and industrial action had come to hold the position they do in law. In the absence of such an understanding, discussion of proposals for changes in the law was sometimes confused, and there was little chance of agreement on the need for change or the direction it might take.

The Green Paper published yesterday considers propositions that have been made for changes in the legal system.

The main proposals for changes in the law on trade union immunities are as follows:

The purpose of the Green Paper is to prompt a wide and informed debate on the law concerning industrial action and on the role in modern life of trade unions and employers and their duties and obligations. The recognition of the crucial need to make progress in building a better climate for improvements in industrial relations will help to produce a fuller and more considered debate on all the issues involved than has taken place for many years.

In Great Britain the law governing strikes and other industrial action is based on a series of legal immunities which protect those who organize and take part in trade disputes from both criminal and civil liability.

Without those immunities most industrial action would be illegal. Trade unions, their officials and their members would be liable to criminal prosecution or to civil actions for damages every time they were involved in a strike unless due notice to terminate contracts of employment were given.

The present debate about immunities centres largely on the immunities from civil actions first provided by the Trade Disputes Act, 1906. Those are now contained in the Trade Union and Labour Relations Acts, 1974 and 1976, and in the Employment Act, 1980:

Section 13 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974 provides immunity from actions in tort for individuals who call or organize industrial action and in doing so interfere with contracts. The immunity applies only if there is a trade dispute (defined in section 29 of the Act) and if the action is taken "in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute". For an act to be "in furtherance of a trade dispute", the person doing it must genuinely believe that it will further the dispute.

Sections 16, 17 and 18 of the Employment Act, 1980, have removed that immunity from specific kinds of industrial action. There remains wide immunity for those who organize primary industrial action. But there is no immunity for picketing by employers other than at their own place of work; for industrial action to compel trade union membership; or for any secondary action unless it is targeted on supplies going to or from the employer in dispute or on business transferred from an employer in dispute to associated employers.

Section 14 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act, 1974, which is unaffected by the Employment Act, gives immunity from any action in tort (with certain minor exceptions) to trade unions and employers' associations, whether or not the conduct of their officials or members is in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute.

The trade unions still regard the 1906 immunities, now contained in the 1974 and 1976 Acts, as essential to their continued ability to give adequate protection to their members. Yet the immunities which commanded wide acceptance in the 50 years after 1906 have attracted increasing opposition in the past 20. Both the *extent* of the immunities and the *system* itself have been questioned.

Government would welcome views

First, it has been suggested that the immunities now allow too wide a scope for industrial action without due regard to its consequences.

Secondly, there had been increasing criticism of the *complexity* of a legal system based on immunities. It has been argued that immunities are not easy to relate to the realities of industrial action; that they do not provide a sufficiently precise or comprehensive definition of the limits of lawful industrial action; and that throughout their history they have left too much scope for interpretation by the courts.

Immunity for trade union funds

It is often questioned whether the law should continue to provide trade unions with a wider immunity than it provides for individuals who organize industrial action. The arguments for and against bringing those immunities into line with each other go to the heart of the debate on the failings of our industrial relations system and practices, and on the role the law can reasonably be expected to play in improving them.

The Government would welcome views on the issues discussed in this chapter. In particular, if the section 14 immunity for trade unions were narrowed to bring it fully into line with the section 13 immunity for individuals, thus putting union funds at risk for the unlawful acts of union officials and members:

Would the change result in more responsible behaviour by trade unions themselves and by their officials and members?

To what extent would employers in practice make use of the ability to sue trade unions for injunctions and damages in cases of unlawful action?

The immunity for secondary industrial action

A number of proposals for restricting secondary action have been made: the most far-reaching would be to remove immunity from all secondary action. This could be achieved in a number of ways. In essence it would mean removing all immunity for inducing breaches of contract from any person who organized industrial action by employees of an employer who was not himself in dispute. There would remain immunity only for organising action by employees who were in dispute with their own employer.

That would appear to be a clear restriction on immunity easily understood by all concerned and simply applied by the courts. It can be argued that it is the only limitation which would provide complete protection for those employers and employees whose companies are subjected to secondary action in support of a dispute in which they are not involved.

Against that it can be argued that, in some cases, secondary action is the only means by which pressure can be brought on an employer in dispute, for example where the employer has sacked all his unionized employees; that secondary action by fellow union members is a long-standing trade union practice deeply based in concepts of unity and mutual assistance; and that it could tilt the balance of power unacceptably to the benefit of employers.

Instead of removing immunity from all secondary action, another possibility would be to limit it closely to specific types of secondary action.

Alternatively, or additionally, immunity could be limited to secondary action against an employer who is giving material support or assistance to the employer in dispute.

Those who argue for these approaches claim for them the advantage that they enable immunity to be given only in those very specific instances where it is generally agreed to be justified and not otherwise. On the other hand, these approaches are seen to involve difficulties of practical application.

Circumstances surrounding disputes are often confused and motives are complex. There could well be protracted argument in the courts about the interpretation of any provision on the lines just discussed, involving industrial issues which, it is claimed, the courts are not well equipped to determine.

Another approach would be to limit the immunity for secondary action according to the type of contract involved. One such possibility would be to restrict the immunity to inducing a breach of a contract of employment. The effects of that would be very uncertain.

Another proposal is that there should only be immunity for industrial action which interferes exclusively with the commercial contracts between the employer in dispute and his customers and suppliers, but not for industrial action which interferes with other commercial contracts to which the employer in dispute is not a party.

Whatever the arguments over a particular option, the main judgment to be made is how far it is desirable and practicable to restrict the immunity for secondary action farther than it has been restricted already by the Employment Act, 1980. In making that judgment, conflicting considerations must be balanced.

On the one hand, there is a continuing need to provide effective protection for those not involved in a dispute against damaging secondary action, particularly against the kind of indiscriminate secondary action that has been a feature of some recent disputes. On the other hand, any changes must take account of the industrial reality that secondary action "to exert additional economic pressure on the employer in dispute by sealing off his sources of supply and materials or his outlets for sales or both . . ." is, to quote the Donovan Commission's words, "a familiar aspect of trade disputes".

The Government would welcome views on these questions:

What is the right balance between the need to protect third parties against secondary action and the need to ensure that trade unions and their officials have sufficient immunity to enable them to defend their members effectively?

What changes, if any, should there be in the restriction on secondary action established by section 17 of the Employment Act, 1980?

> ' The purpose of the Green Paper is to prompt a wide and informed debate on the law concerning industrial action and on the role in modern life of trade unions and employers. '

Picketing

The use of pickets in industrial disputes has been the subject of widespread and increasing public concern in recent years.

Picketing commonly involves persuading employees to break their contracts of employment by not going to work and, by disrupting the business of the employer who is being picketed, interfering with his commercial contracts with other employers. Provided that picketing satisfies basic conditions, those who organize and engage in it are protected by section 13 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Acts 1974 and 1976 from being sued in the civil courts for these civil wrongs.

It has been suggested that the section 13 immunity might be limited in respect of picketing to primary action alone. The consequence of that would be that strikers who were not in dispute with their own employer but, say, picketing in the course of a sympathetic (ie secondary) strike, even a lawful strike, would have no immunity in respect of picketing at all.

Danger of abandoning police neutrality

It has been suggested that a faster and more certain procedure would be to place an obligation on the police to ascertain the names and addresses of pickets at the request of the employer concerned in those circumstances, and that it should be made a criminal offence for the pickets to refuse to supply their names and addresses. The main objection is that this would involve a breach of what has hitherto been regarded as an important principle in relation to the conduct of picketing, namely the neutrality of the police.

Abandoning the principle of police neutrality could have serious implications. Without clear evidence that employers are being seriously frustrated from taking advantage of the provisions of the Employment Act, 1980, by their inability to secure the names and addresses of pickets, it may in any case be thought premature at this time to consider making a change in the law of this nature.

The Government would welcome views on those issues.

Two possible changes are put forward most frequently. First there is the approach that would require a legitimate trade dispute to be "wholly or mainly" related to the subjects listed in section 29 of the 1974 Act.

The second, and more radical, approach would be to remove immunity from disputes with a political element. The difficulty, however, would be in finding a generally acceptable definition of "political". Furthermore, such an approach would remove immunity from a wide range of industrial action in what would otherwise be regarded as perfectly legitimate disputes about terms and conditions of employment, where Government is either the employer or the provider of money to the employer.

A big difficulty with either of those proposals is that they would narrow the definition in a way that would inevitably restrict many types of industrial action undoubtedly directed at improving terms and conditions of employment.

Legally enforceable collective agreements

A distinguishing feature of British industrial relations is the absence of legally enforceable collective agreements. In most Western industrial countries collective agreements are contracts which are enforceable by and against those who are parties to them. That imposes upon those parties a "peace", or "no strike, no lock-out" obligation which makes it unlawful to use *industrial action to try to* change the provisions of an agreement while it is in force.

The question is whether legally enforceable collective agreements could be developed in Britain and, if they were, whether some or all of those advantages could be expected. A particular defect of industrial relations in this country in recent years has been too great a readiness to resort to strikes regardless of the currency of a collective agreement and before the procedures for resolving disputes have been exhausted.

It is suggested that industrial action should not have immunity where it is taken in breach of a collective agreement. That could apply either to action taken during the currency of the collective agreement itself, or if it were desired to concentrate on the development and use of disputes procedures, to action taken before the agreed procedure for resolving disputes had been exhausted. Its effect would be to enable an employer damaged by a strike or other industrial action in breach of an agreement to sue the organizers of the action for an injunction or damages.

It might be, however, that given the history and practice of industrial relations in Britain, the task of convincing negotiators of the value of legal enforceability is primarily an educational one and an essential prerequisite is still the need to secure an improvement in the nature of collective bargaining and the form of agreements concluded, particularly procedure agreements.

A very significant change in practice would seem to be necessary to avoid the difficulties the courts would otherwise have in establishing what were the provisions and intentions of existing agreements. Without such changes, and without an established basis of consent, it is possible that any attempt to impose legally enforceable collective agreements would be hindered by evasion and by the difficulty the courts would face.

The Government would welcome views on that analysis of the advantages and difficulties of changing the law to remove immunities from industrial action taken in breach of collective agreements, and of securing the widespread application of enforceable agreements in this country; and in the light of the advantages of introducing legally enforceable agreements in Great Britain, on the steps which might be taken to encourage progress towards this.

Secret Ballots

The practice of holding secret ballots for the election of union officers or to decide whether to accept a specific pay offer or to take industrial action is well established in some trade unions. But that practice is still very far from being general and progress in extending it has been slow.

It has been proposed that immunity for calling industrial action should be made dependent in certain circumstances on the union having had a ballot of the members to determine whether the majority wish that industrial action to be taken. Some have gone further and urged that immunities should only be available *for those trade unions that adopt democratic procedures for* elections and strike decisions.

There are now two general approaches on how to promote ballots before strike action:

Proposals for ballots "triggered" by union members; and a belief that ballots can best be encouraged in a non-mandatory way, for example, by the provision of public funds.

Difficult questions on use of secret ballots

The differences between the two approaches are those of means, emphasis and practicability. Those in favour of "triggered" ballots argue that the ballot should be the basis of decision-making in trade unions, just as it is an integral part of political democracy. It is suggested, moreover, that it is unreasonable to expect a significant extension of secret ballots by voluntary means when the existing holders of power in unions tend to see their use as a threat to their position.

On that view, only action by the Government can break their entrenched opposition. Therefore, it is *suggested*, the right of trade union members to participate in the decision-making process on a proposal to strike or to take another form of industrial action should be established in the law.

The Government would welcome views on the practicalities and balance of advantage of making secret ballots compulsory, and on what further steps might be taken to encourage their voluntary use.

Closed shop and union membership issues

The Government's view of the closed shop is clear: it is opposed to the principles underlying it. That people should be required to join a union as a condition of getting or holding a job runs contrary to the general traditions of personal liberty in this country.

There is little evidence that closed shops have helped to reduce industrial conflict and some closed shops are undoubtedly used as a basis for establishing and maintaining restrictive practices that impede efficiency.

One suggestion is to make closed shop agreements void (in effect, to declare closed-shop agreements unlawful). That would make any such agreement unenforceable at law. It is argued in favour of that proposal that it *gives the clearest and most* comprehensive expression to disapproval of closed shops and *is* in line with the law on the subject in the majority of other *European countries.*

It has been proposed that there should be a legal requirement that all closed shop agreements be subject to a periodic review of support among the employees they cover. Those who argue against any new legal requirement of this kind point to the disturbance to industrial relations that a statutory requirement to review could entail.

It can be argued indeed that it is particularly important that there should be regular reviews of closed-shop agreements, because of the threat they may pose to an individual's job and livelihood if he does not wish to join a union. Unless there are regular reviews, it is argued, once a closed-shop agreement *is* established, employees in practice become locked into it, with the result that the closed shop becomes a still more pervasive feature of British industrial relations.

On the other hand, the closed shop is a major feature of our industrial relations system with a long history. There are practical limitations on the extent to which such long-standing practices can be eradicated by law and there is inevitably some uncertainty as to what would be the effects of trying to do so.

The Government would welcome views on whether further changes in legislation affecting the closed shop and related practices are desirable at this stage; and whether such further changes would be likely to prove effective.

Protecting the community

The freedom to strike imposes on any society that upholds it a potential liability to sustain damage. Therefore, the community must be able to count on trade unions and individual workers to exercise their power with restraint and responsibility. But over and above that, governments have a duty, when the interests of the community are put at risk, to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that access to essential goods and *services is protected and that* the hardship inflicted on the community is limited as much as possible.

There have been suggestions in Britain for giving the Government a power to declare unlawful strikes that create or threaten a national emergency. It is suggested that the simplest way of doing that would be to remove the restriction on the government's power to make a strike or peaceful picketing an offence by regulation or to create a separate power for the Government to seek an order from the courts banning a strike.

The main objection to such a proposal is that even with those safeguards it places in the hands of the executive a considerable power to restrict strikes and undermines basic liberties in a way that many would regard as unacceptable. The question is whether such a power can ever be justified outside the wholly exceptional circumstances of a war.

The Emergency Powers Act, 1920, which has formed the basis of the Government's powers for 60 years, is drafted on the basis that a power to declare strikes unlawful is not justified.

Most people, for example, would accept that action that puts lives at risk or imperils national security constitutes an emergency. In general, workers who are in a position to endanger life or threaten security either do not go on strike, or if they do so, ensure that essential services are maintained. The community has the right to expect nothing less. In our society the force of public opinion remains a potent factor.

There will be always considerable difficulties in drawing a line around industrial action that is not damaging to the economy or to society.

It is arguable indeed that a power for the Government to declare strikes unlawful if they threaten the community or the national economy would put at risk almost every major strike that occurred.

One approach would be to make it unlawful for certain key groups of workers to take industrial action. That, it is argued, would have the advantage of providing permanent protection to the community without placing unacceptable discretionary powers in the hands of the Government.

It can be further argued that it is not an unreasonable condition of employment in an essential service for the employee to be required to waive his right to abrogate that contract at will, *if* the consequence is to threaten the continued function of that service with grave effects on the country.

There might be very great difficulties in making strikes by key groups of workers *illegal*. It is possible to argue that the most effective way of making progress on that question is through voluntary "no strike" agreements between management and unions in those sectors of industry where strikes might threaten the national interest. That is a sensitive and difficult area in which arguments of fundamental principle and practice must be carefully weighed. The Government would welcome *views on the proposals for* changes.

Alternative system of positive rights

The introduction of positive rights into the law relating to strikes and industrial action in Britain would be an entirely novel step. It would represent a fundamental change from the legal system based on immunities which has developed over the last 100 years. That raises important issues which cannot, logically, be isolated from the question whether there should be some general form of Bill of Rights.

If there were to be a positive right in relation to industrial action in Britain, it is arguable that it should be a right to strike rather than a right to organize a strike.

There is also the question of whether a right to strike implies a right not to strike. If there were a right not to strike, the question would arise whether such disciplinary action was legal.

The immunities apply equally to employers and employers' associations who organize a lock-out. That suggests that in a positive rights system the right to strike might need to be matched with a corresponding right to lock-out.

Definition and limitation of the right to strike

A right to strike or lock-out by itself would leave almost unlimited scope for industrial action. It would therefore be necessary to limit that right in a number of ways.

Advantages and disadvantages of a positive rights system

It is apparent that there would be several complex legal and technical questions to be resolved in changing from immunities to a system of legal rights. In particular, there could be special difficulty in insulating a right to strike from the common law.

To the extent that a positive rights system succeeded in moving the language and concepts of the law on industrial conflict away from immunities against tortious liability, it might be easier to understand and more straightforward to apply, not just for unions and management but for the courts as well. Indeed, it is possible that a system of positive rights would help remove the unions' traditional suspicion of the courts.

Formidable task to formulate legal system

It would undoubtedly be a formidable task to formulate a legal system of positive rights to replace the present law. The whole question would need to be expertly examined. But it would first need to be decided whether there was a positive advantage in the establishment of a new system. The Government would therefore welcome views on that analysis and, in particular, on the following points:

Would it be desirable to make the fundamental change from the present system based on immunities to one based on positive rights?

Would a system of positive rights contribute to an improvement in industrial relations?

Would it be clearer, more easily understood and less complex as a system of law?

Would employers and unions welcome the obligations that would be involved?

The Government would welcome the views of industry and others concerned on the issues covered in the Green Paper. Comments should be sent, before June 30, to: Department of Employment, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NF.

Irregularities claimed in city of London Corporation elections

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

Election procedures for aldermen and councillos on the City of London Coporation are under scrutiny because of irregularities alleged to have taken place in recent elections.

The corporation's policy and resources committee is considering the operation of the City franchise, and the Court of Aldermen is looking at the procedures for its own election.

Mrs Edwina Coven, who was twice elected an alderman and twice rejected by the Court of Aldermen, asked at a meeting of the council yesterday for a select committee to be formed to consider the matter. That was not accepted.

Discontent has been growing over procedures for some time, and the latest complaints concern the right of people to vote in more than one ward in City elections. Mr Michael Cassidy, a member, raised the question at yesterday's meeting, claiming that there had been voting irregularities in the elections to the Court of Common Council in December.

Mr Gordon Wixley, chairman of the policy and resources committee, replied: "I am not sure that I can acept that there were irregularities". The question involved the use of postal votes, he said, and changes had been made in that procedure.

Under the rules guiding elections, partners in the largest private firms, with more than 20 partners, can vote in wards where the firms have premises.

He said that one large firm of chartered accountants had offices in three wards; ward lists showed that all partners were entitled to vote in each ward.

Another member, Mr Hyam Liss, said that a system where electors had more than one vote was unfair, and urged that voting be restricted to one per person.

Mr Wixley answered that the question would be referred to the committee considering the franchise.

One of the main concerns among members of the council is that the City corporation is not treated as other local authorities are under the Representation of the People Act, 1949. Mr Cassidy believes that the election last December might have been declared invalid under that Act, but the City is exempted from some of its provisions.

MPs back disclosure Bill, says Mr Benn

By Peter Hennessy

Mr Wedgwood Benn, former Secretary of State for Energy, predicted yesterday that an all-party alliance of backbench MPs would prevail against the upholders of prime ministerial and Civil Service power in the Commons and force the Freedom of Information Bill published on Wednesday on to the statute book in the present session of Parliament.

Speaking at a Westminster press conference organized by the Labour Committee for a Freedom of Information Act, Mr Benn said: "I think it is a Bill we can pass. It is a battle where you are up against the centre of power in government, which is the Prime Minister and the permanent secretaries on one side, with ministers dragged along, and all other backbenchers on the other side."

The Bill, drafted by the now defunct Outer Circle Policy Unit, is sponsored by Mr Frank Hooley, Labour MP for Sheffield, Heeley, and will have a Second reading debate on February 6. Mr Hooley expressed confidence yesterday that he had sufficient support from Labour, Liberal and nationalist MPs and some Conservative backbenchers (he would not offer a figure for his Tory support), to secure a committee stage for the Bill.

Its strategists, however, expect difficulty at the report stage. It is a complicated measure that will need more than one day on report, and is unlikely to be offered time by a Government hostile to its fundamental provisions.

They include a reduction of the 30-year rule for Cabinet papers to 10 years, a drastic curtailment of the areas of unauthorized disclosure liable to criminal penalty under section 2 of the Official Secrets Act, 1911, and creation of a public right of access to departmental documents, subject to seven exemptions as follows:

1. Papers that might impair the defence or security of the United Kingdom.
2. Documents whose disclosure could damage dealings with foreign governments.
3. Information relating to negotiations or decisions affecting the level of sterling or the reserves.
4. Law enforcement material whose disclosure might endanger life or assist the commission of crime.
5. Documents covered by legal privilege.
6. Commercial information whose release might damage the competitive position
7. Documents relating to living persons where disclosure would amount to an invasion of privacy.

For its part, the Government seems confident that the Bill can be killed before it reaches the statute book.

As one Whitehall veteran of the fight against a similar Bill introduced by Mr Clement Freud, Liberal MP for the Isle of Ely, which fell at its committee stage with the Callaghan administration in 1979, put it recently: "I am not worried one bit. This Bill has about as much chance of passing as Rochdale has of winning the Cup".



Winter snow: The scene in Guild Street, Aberdeen, after a snowstorm. Similar conditions prevailed in many other areas of Scotland and northern England after heavy snowfalls early yesterday. The weather was particularly severe in Aberdeenshire, with gale force northerly winds and temperatures well below freezing. Striking dockers at Aberdeen allowed the St Clair, a ferry carrying supplies of milk and bread for the Shetland and Orkney Islands, to sail after another vessel had broken down. Flights at Glasgow airport were halted because of a 24-hour strike by firemen, but by the late afternoon the men had cleared to runways. In many parts of England roads were blocked by snow. Icy conditions also made the going difficult. In the Manchester area all motorways were affected by heavy snow and a blizzard struck the M6 in Cheshire.

In brief

Attempt to kill PC alleged

Stuart Blackstock, aged 26, unemployed and of no fixed address, was remanded in custody for a week by magistrates at Uxbridge, London, yesterday in connexion with last month's shooting of a London traffic policeman.

He was accused of attempting to murder Police Constable Philip Olds, aged 28, at Willowtree Lane, Hayes, on December 2. He was also accused of attempting to rob Edward Ball.

Boxer appeal buys hospital equipment

Equipment worth more than £100,000 has been bought for the Prince Charles Hospital, in Merthyr Tydfil, with money from the appeal fund for Johnny Owen, the Welsh bantamweight boxer who died 45 days after being knocked out in a world title fight in Los Angeles last September. An inquest into his death will be held in Los Angeles in March.

Heroin stolen

Strathclyde police said yesterday a briefcase containing heroin as well as sleeping tablets and pain killers, stolen from a doctor's car at Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow, could be dangerous if taken by children.

Mr Bosanquet arrested

Mr Reginald Bosanquet, aged 48, the former television news reader, was arrested in Covent Garden, London, yesterday, and charged with being drunk and disorderly. He is to appear before Bow Street magistrates today.

PC suspended

Police Constable Martin Lincoln, of Bedford, has been suspended after investigations into missing tea money at the canteen of the headquarters of the Bedfordshire police traffic division at Kempston.

Helping the rates

East Northamptonshire District Council is to consider selling advertising space on the back of rate demands and is hoping to save nearly £2,000 a year by sending out only one rates bill.

Church demolished

Workmen yesterday began demolishing St Oswald-in-Usmere church, at Broadwaters Kidderminster, Hereford and Worcester 17 years after it was built for £150,000, because engineers have said it is unsafe.

Lord Denning recovers

Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, was back at work yesterday afternoon in the Court of Appeal after spending two days at home with a stomach illness.

Architects earn less

New commissions won by private architects slumped in the third quarter of last year by 9.2 per cent to £1,304m, a 12-year low record.

Woman of 92 to marry

Mrs Mary Roach, aged 92, is to marry Mr David Powell, aged 84. Both live in a home for the aged at Pontardawe, in the Swansea Valley.

Monitoring of garage servicing planned

By Peter Waymark
Motoring Correspondent

The Consumers' Association and the Motor Agents' Association are to explore the possibility of setting up independent machinery for the monitoring of garage servicing standards.

The two bodies met yesterday to discuss a report on garage servicing published in the Consumers' Association magazine, Motoring Which?, which claimed to reveal "an appalling picture of incompetence and dishonesty".

The magazine took cars anonymously to 50 garages for a full service according to the manufacturer's specifications and found that only two came "anywhere near" doing the job properly. One garage charged £40 for little more than an oil change.

Miss Rosemary McRobert, deputy director of the Consumers' Association, said after yesterday's meeting: "This is the fourth report we have done on garage servicing and we intend to follow it through.

She said they had put forward two suggestions for improvement. The first was to strengthen the code of practice for the motor industry drawn up by the trade in cooperation with the Office of Fair Trading.

The other was to establish machinery for monitoring garage standards.

The Motor Agents' Association agreed that it should be possible to set up an independent monitoring system and suggested that the Office of Fair Trading and local trading standards officers could be involved.

On the Which? allegation, the association said: "We feel that the report painted a far blacker picture than the reality. If what it is saying were representative, the highways of Britain would be littered with the carcasses of motor cars.

"However, there is evidence that in a number of cases instructions were not carried out to the letter. We have the names of all the garages concerned and they are being invited to answer the charges laid against them.

Faroese threat to salmon

By Hugh Clayton
Agriculture Correspondent

The Government has sent a warning to the European Commission about a threat to stocks of salmon in British waters caused by a sharp increase in catches by boats from the Faroe Islands. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said yesterday that salmon caught in Faroese waters were often from British waterways.

Salmon from rivers in North America and Western Europe swim to feeding grounds off Greenland before returning to their native rivers to produce eggs.

The Atlantic Salmon Trust said yesterday that Faroese catches had risen from a total of 50 tonnes in the 1978-79 season to 700 tonnes last year. Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh Mackenzie, chairman of the trust, said in London that the Faroese catch might reach 1,000 tonnes in the present season.

'Smokers can give others lung cancer'

By Our Medical Correspondent

Powerful support for anti-smoking campaigners is given by a research report from Japan published today in the British Medical Journal which shows that lung cancer occurs in non-smokers more frequently if they are married to heavy cigarette smokers than if they live in a non-smoking household.

The findings come from a research project by Dr Takeshi Hirayama, chief of the epidemiology division of the National Cancer Research Institute in Tokyo, in which he looked at the causes of death in 260,000 men and women aged 40 and over in 29 health districts.

In the 14 years of the study 346 women died from lung cancer; 245 of those were married and 174 were also non-smokers.

The mortality rate was twice as high in those married to men who smoked 20 or more cigarettes daily than in those married to non-smokers. That difference in risk remained the same when allowances were made for age and occupation.

The risk was even higher in rural districts, where there was a fourfold difference in mortality between women married to smokers and to non-smokers.

Dr Hirayama estimates that the effect of exposure to cigarette smoke is about a third to a half that of direct smoking in terms of relative risk. In countries such as Japan, where only 15 per cent of women smoke, the effect of passive or involuntary smoking is relatively more important

Passer-by snaps up Gipsy Moth III

By Frances Gibb

Sir Francis Chichester's yacht, Gipsy Moth III, in which he won the first single-handed transatlantic race, was sold at auction for £30,000 to a passer-by on a pavement in Knightsbridge, London, yesterday.

Mr Gunther Stoelk, a Swiss antique dealer, said he was visiting Bonhams, the auctioneers who conducted the sale, to buy some furniture and had decided on the spur of the moment to bid "just for fun".

Stunned by the applause and attention which descended on him as the ivory gavel was banged on the yacht's bull, Mr Stoelk, who lives in Ibiza, said: "I am very glad I have bought it. It is a very nice boat and I hope to sail it in Spain."

He had heard of the yacht, he said, and its historical links had persuaded him to bid on his way to the furniture sale.

Lady Chichester, who with her son Giles was at the sale, pushed through the crowd to meet the yacht's new owner. "I am very glad you have bought it", she said, "and I hope it will bring you joy."

Mr Stoelk's bid saved what was nearly a sticky day for the auctioneers. The 39ft yacht, their biggest lot to date, drew a crowd of about 70 potential buyers, who huddled around the vessel in the biting wind.

But even the rum toddy provided failed to warm the bidding beyond £15,000. Mr Nicholas Bonham, head of the firm, urged buyers that this was a "rare chance to buy a piece of Britain's great sailing heritage". Nor would any buyer's premium (a 10 per cent surcharge) be added, he said.

In vain he tried to joke the bidding along. "Are you directing the traffic?" he asked a policeman, "or making an offer?" But the level stuck obstinately at £15,000. "Surely it is worth more than that?" Mr Bonham said. Then, with Mr Stoeck's interest, the bidding took off.

The yacht, designed by Sir Robert Clark, who was later to design Gipsy Moth V, was the last of Sir Francis's great yachts available for sale. Gipsy Moth IV is encased on concrete beside the Cutty Sark and owned by the Greater London Council. Gipsy Moth V is owned by the Chichester family.

Lady Chichester said she had particularly fond memories of Gipsy Moth III because it was the first boat, apart from dinghies, that Sir Francis had owned after recovering from cancer.

The yacht was sold yesterday by a journalist, a headmaster and a businessman, who owned it jointly. One of them, Mr Brian Moynahan, a journalist with The Sunday Times, said they were pleased with the price.

Bail for six policemen on plot charge

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

Six London policemen were remanded on bail until March 12 at Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday charged with conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. They were arrested after investigations by officers from Countryman, the inquiry into allegations of London police corruption.

The six, the largest group of officers brought to court so far by Countryman, are: Det Constable Michael Ross; Det Sergeant John Ross, his brother; Det Constable Paul Restrew; Det Sergeant Anthony Russell; Det Constable Derek Watts and Inspector Terence Babbage. All are members of the Metropolitan Police and were already suspended.

Yesterday's court appearances mean that Countryman, started in August, 1978, by officers called in from provincial forces, has so far resulted in 10 officers from the Metropolitan and the City of London police being charged.

A number of civilians have also been charged as a result of the inquiry.

Irish ferry company cutting fares by up to 40%

By Michael Baily
Shipping Correspondent

Cuts of up to 40 per cent in fares across the Irish Sea this year were announced by B and I Line, the Irish Republic's state-owned ferry company.

The Irish Sea is not subject to the kind of cut-price war raging on the Channel, and the reason for the remarkable price cuts at a time of rapid cost inflation is the need to stimulate demand for the extra transport becoming available

A return passage for car and four people between Pembroke and Rosslare is £39, compared with £76 last year. The same party on the longer Liverpool-Dublin or Pembroke-Cork routes is £64 to April, compared with £94.

Mr Norman Newcombe, B and I's general manager for marketing, said that price cuts would also be offered on the line's new Jetfoil service,

DPP studying report on baby death

The Director of Public Prosecutions is studying papers sent by Derbyshire police on the death of a three-day-old baby with Down's syndrome in Derby City Hospital. He said yesterday that he would be seeking counsel's advice within a week.

Police started inquiries into the baby's death last summer and Det Supt James Reddington has made a report. It is understood that a doctor was among those interviewed.

The father of the baby, Mr John Pearson, who has a grocery business at Worksworth, said yesterday: "The whole matter is very distressing. We did not make the original complaint and we are seeing our solicitors today and are unable to make any comment."

Woman dies in fire

Mrs Blanche Reeve, aged 92, died yesterday after her sleeve caught fire while she was cooking breakfast at her home in New Road, Chilworth, Surrey.

Moonies' leader covers his costs in libel action

The leader in the United Kingdom of the Moonies religious sect, Mr Dennis Orme, yesterday paid the final £135,000 instalment of the security he has been ordered to put up to cover the costs of his High Court libel action against Associated Newspapers.

Mr Justice Comyn had warned Mr Orme that his case would be dismissed if he failed to guarantee payment of £215,000 towards defence costs in the event of his losing the action.

The libel trial, which began last October, is still less than half way through. Lord Rawlinson, QC, for Associated Newspapers, said yesterday that once Mr Orme's case was finished the defence would submit that the words complained of did not refer to Mr Orme. If that submission was upheld, the case would end.

Mr Orme is claiming damages over a Daily Mail article in May, 1978, which alleged that the Unification Church, the Moonies' official name, brainwashed converts and broke up families. Libel is denied.

The judge said yesterday that his disquiet about the three months the jury had so far spent on the case had been reinforced by Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, who was looking into the whole matter of time estimates for jury trials to ensure that the experience of the jury in this case never recurred.

The trial was adjourned until next Monday to allow Lord Rawlinson to complete another High Court case.

Judge adjourns siege trial as counsel is ill

The trial of Fowzi Nejad, who has denied the murder of two hostages at the Iranian Embassy in London, was adjourned at the Central Criminal Court yesterday because Mr Richard Du Cann, QC, his counsel, is ill.

Mr Justice Park told the jury that Mr Du Cann had influenza and was unable to be in court. He said: "It would be wrong for this trial to continue on these two serious charges with this defendant deprived of the services of his very experienced leading counsel." He adjourned the trial until next Monday and passed on Mr Du Cann's apologies to the court.

Editor blamed for not publishing letter

The editor of the New Statesman, Mr Bruce Page, is criticized today for "lack of cooperation" in a Press Council investigation into a complaint against his journal.

The council said that Mr Page published an article alleging corruption and incompetence among British civil servants in Hongkong, then broke an apparent undertaking to publish a timely response. It upheld a complaint by the Civil Service Union that having made the allegations, and having implied collusion by a union officer in a cover-up, Mr Page declined to allow the union the opportunity for reasonable space to reply.

The New Statesman's report, by Duncan Campbell, alleged corruption and abuse of personal allowances in Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), a secret agency monitoring world communications.

After Mr Leslie Moody, general secretary of the union, complained to the council, Mr Page replied that the New Statesman did not conduct business with the Press Council, which he said was a body devoid of useful powers, and a bulwark of the press campaign to blacken the name of the trade union movement.

He said that Mr Moody's desire to defend his members' ship would have been met by a shorter letter, which would still be published if received.

Mr Moody told the council that the invitation came a month after the offending article appeared, and publishing a short letter after six weeks would reduce its value. The Press Council's adjudication was:

Having published an attack making wide-ranging allegations of this nature, the New Statesman should have given the Civil Service Union an opportunity to reply. The Press Council accepts that the letter suggested for publication was over-long, but it criticizes the editor for breaking his apparent undertaking to publish a response in the following week's issue. The complaint against the New Statesman is upheld.

The Press Council regrets the lack of cooperation by the editor in its investigation and consideration of the complaint, particularly as this was concerned with a matter of such general importance, and an obligation so generally accepted, as the opportunity to reply to a published attack.

Tax burden has increased but with shift to indirect taxation

House of Commons

The Prime Minister indicated that she agreed with "the intelligent speech" made by Mr Nigel Lawson, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, in Zurich yesterday, and with his statement that the present Government had increased the total tax burden.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition (Ebbw Vale, Lab) asked whether the Prime Minister had studied the speech.

Can she tell us from the heart of the Government—I believe that is the description, in *The Times*, which she prefers—whether it is a good idea that the Financial Secretary should, despite the crumbling of the two main pillars in the economy of money supply and borrowing requirement, go on delivering the same old advice?

Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister (Barnet, Finchley, C): If Mr Foot reads the whole speech, he will probably agree with a number of leader writers who seem to have called it "remarkably frank and intelligent", "candid and intelligent" and all sorts of things, but "intelligent". (Laughter and cheers.)

Mr Foot: I have a chance of reading the whole speech. Would she agree with and perhaps underline what was in the speech and which we have not had so candidly admitted before—that the Government has increased the overall real burden of taxation. Is that part of the policy she is determined to pursue?

Mrs Thatcher: I cannot disagree with this highly intelligent speech. The person who made it is more intelligent and perceptive than some of his critics.

I do not disagree that the total burden of taxation for the time being has increased. It has not been increased on personal income. Indeed the burden has been shifted from that to indirect tax which was part of our manifesto which we intend to continue to carry out.

Mr Fergus Montgomery (Altrincham and Sale, C): Will Mrs Thatcher remind people that the latest figures show that living standards rose for those in work at the expense of many jobs of those who priced their products out of the market. Is there not a lesson there for the seamen?

Mrs Thatcher: One tragedy is that people by demanding wages far greater than can be borne by their productivity record price themselves out of a job, and those jobs and that business go overseas.

They not only price themselves out of jobs but also other people who have been very careful not to demand large wage increases. I hope the lesson will be learnt: that more strikes mean more unemployment.

Mr James Hamilton (Bothwell, Lab): The Geneva speech proves that consumer prices are rising more sharply than the tax deduction.

If she is uncertain, will the Prime Minister go out with her shopping basket to the shopping centres and ask the housewives?

Mrs Thatcher: I am glad the speech is receiving so much publicity. Everyone should read it and learn that the increase of prices before the last election was very considerable indeed.

Country on road to ruin: Opposition demand new policies

The Government's economic policies were impoverishing and dividing the nation, Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, said when he opened a debate on economic and monetarist policies. The Opposition would continue to press its attack with all the force it could command, he added, until it had achieved the abandonment of these dangerous and damaging policies.

Before the House was an Opposition motion expressing grave alarm at the continuing decline in output, employment and investment in British industry. It called on the Government to abandon its disastrous economic and monetarist policies.

Mr Shore (Tower Hamlets, Stepney and Poplar, Lab) said that since the oil price explosion of late 1973-early 1974, with all the baleful national and international consequences that had followed from it, growth everywhere had slowed down and in Britain had been reduced to a snail's pace.

Now they had entered a new and far more dangerous phase. Since the advent to power of the Government in May, 1979, and the implementation of its policies, the economy had lurched from stagnation to actual decline.

Unemployment had risen by over 945,000 and more than three quarters of that was in manufacturing industry. Nationally, one in 11 people were out of work and in many of the regions the figures were far worse.

In the past six months there had been a sharp acceleration of jobs lost. The increase in unemployment was now running at some 100,000 a month.

It was beyond all reason that the Government's policies should still be pursued, but so far the Government's reaction had been extraordinary and frightening—including yesterday's comments by the Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Nigel Lawson) in Zurich.

What Britain had had over the past few months, including Mr Lawson's speech, as a sustained public relations exercise—"Operation Optimism"—led by the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with other Treasury ministers playing supporting roles.

Nowhere (he said) have I been able to detect recognition, let alone concern, of the appalling state of the economy.

Recent press reports had said there would be no increase in personal taxation. There had been a remarkable leak judged against the background of a series of remarkable leaks.

Where does this lead us? (he asked). Further taxes on industry, already flattened by recession, or upon the consumer in the form of VAT, excise duties, licence fees, etc?

The only lesson the Government seemed to have drawn from the appalling experience of the past 18 months was that if you could not deflate far and fast enough by one policy of monetary supply you must deflate by using the tax instrument as well.

Deflation (he said) remains the Government's objective, with all that means for the future contraction of output and the further rise in unemployment. The Government knows this. Its protestations of concern about unemployment are nauseatingly false. (Labour cheers).

The appointment of Professor Alan Walters was a remarkable display of distrust in the Prime Minister's own Chancellor of the Exchequer. The professor was to be a kind of intellectual policeman to ensure that the will of the First Lord of the Treasury prevailed over whatever doubts and hesitations the Treasury team occasionally entertained.

What distinguished the professor from other monetarists, and no doubt justified his appointment, was that he had not been exposed to any experience of government. (Renewed Labour laughter). This could be the most dangerous and expensive period for any nation since Rasputin won the ear of the Empress of Russia. (Further Labour laughter).

Now that the Government had itself suspended its monetary targets, at least until the Budget, it should take the opportunity to recognize that the economy could not be run except to destruction by the obsessive pursuit of M3 or any other monetary harlot the Financial Secretary decided to woo.

The Government should engage in a serious dialogue with industry, the employers and trade unions on the real problems of the economy to bring forward effective counter-inflation measures.

Ministers should address themselves seriously to the great problem of Britain's loss of international competitiveness. British industry's costs must be brought down and an agreed counter-inflation policy was crucial to this.

There must be a reduction of energy prices, particularly for bulk power users, into line with those of Britain's competitors. The National Insurance surcharge should be considerably reduced and eventually repealed.

The minimum lending rate must be brought down to single figures. It must be a principal objective of government to achieve and maintain a competitive exchange rate.

It must surely have dawned on the Government that cuts in public expenditure of the kind it had embarked on damaged rather than assisted industry, both private and public.

Every time the mad axeman of Marsham Street attacked the local authorities, regional water boards and other public sector agencies which came within his department, he inflicted fresh damage on the construction and building industries, overwhelmingly private enterprise as they were.

The apparent savings which he and ministers in other large spending departments made were substantially negated by the increased payments the Secretary of State for Social Services had to make in the form of unemployment pay and supplementary benefits and the loss of tax revenue the Chancellor of the Exchequer had to bear.

This was precisely what the Chancellor himself had to acknowledge in his statement of November 24 in explaining why public expenditure had remained higher than he had planned.

A substantial and well judged increase in public spending on housing and roads and other infrastructure programmes was needed.

The Government should review its regional policy and consider if it made sense to withdraw assisted area status from the intermediate areas.

There had to be a major reversal of the Government's economic policies. The country was on the road to ruin and it was a paradox and a tragedy that at the very moment that Britain had become self sufficient in oil she should be facing the worst outlook for the last 50 years.

It takes an extraordinary capacity for mismanagement (he said) to turn an asset which should be enriching us into a burden which is impoverishing us.

The policy must be and will be changed. The only question is just how much more damage will be inflicted before this stubborn, myopic and divisive government is forced to alter course or, far better, to hand over to a new administration.

Chancellor says it would be crazy to change course now worst is over

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer (East Surrey, C), moved a Government amendment: "That this House, while recognizing the severity of the present economic difficulties, endorses the priority given by the Government to mastering inflation and improving competitiveness, and calls on the Government to maintain its present policies for economic recovery, which alone offer the prospect of a lasting reduction in unemployment."

He said that for too long, and under successive governments, too many people had been paid for doing jobs which should not have survived. Governments had connived in this in state-owned industries, in central and local government and sometimes in the most respected private companies.

Overmanning had been the scourge of efficiency and, in the end, the cause of today's unemployment. This had been worsened by pay levels rising much faster than those of overseas competitors.

These domestic causes had been compounded by the upheavals in the world oil market. In the past two years oil prices had risen by more than 150 per cent.

The key to recovery in the domestic economy must be success in the fight against inflation.

Virtually every other OECD country was giving top priority to reducing inflation. The lesson of recent years was that more inflation meant more unemployment and less growth.

In this battle against inflation, monetary policy had a fundamental role to play. Detailed discussion on the monetary targets the Government would be setting for the next year must await his Budget speech, but monetary control was essential and was part of the permanent framework of a stable economy.

They had heard an astonishing call from Mr Shore for a dramatic change of policy. He had called for more demand, but the truth was that over recent years there had been too much demand, and too little supply.

The failure to produce enough British cars was not a consequence of shortage of demand. The annual market was still more than 1,500,000 units, but more than half that demand was filled by imports.

Over the past 15 years, European car production increased by four million units, but British supply had fallen by 600,000 units.

British firms were not working to capacity, not because of shortage of demand, but because their goods and products were uncompetitive in quality, price, and delivery.

Mr Shore had repudiated the policies of the last Labour Government. Any attempt to solve the problems by increasing demand would result in even fewer jobs and higher unemployment.

By contrast, on the vital problem of inflation, this Government's success was becoming increasingly apparent. (Labour laughter.)

Year on year, the rate of inflation was down from 22 per cent last June to just over 15 per cent now. A further large fall was expected this month.

The rise in the retail price index had been less than 1 per cent in each of the last seven months.

The underlying rate was a little higher, but many forecasters expected single figure inflation this year.

There was a prospect, in the absence of a further oil price shock, that the world recession would bottom out this year.

The CBI and *Financial Times* surveys were indicating a start in the improvement of business confidence. Recent forecasts inside and outside the Treasury indicated that the fall in output was coming towards an end, although its timing would be hard to predict.

Even in difficult conditions, exporters were performing well. Exports in the first nine months of 1980 were higher than in the whole of 1979.

Unemployment was likely to go on rising for some time yet but much of the worst was over and there were distinct signs of hope.

A long and difficult period of adjustment is still ahead (he said) and this Government will do all it can to help industry through that period.

Calls for a lower exchange rate revealed a misconception of what could be achieved by governments. Experience showed that governments which tried to set rates failed.

The Government would try—as industry must—to adapt to sterling's strength by controlling its own costs. That was not something the Government could command.

He was astonished to hear criticism of the Government's attempts to control *public expenditure*.

Within the resources available, the Government was doing a great deal to ease the impact of the recession on those worst hit. It was maintaining regional programmes, concentrating on the areas of greatest need, to the cost of £450m this year. It was continuing special employment measures and industrial training. The take-up of the shortime working scheme had increased rapidly and large sums were being spent on it.

The Government had also been increasing spending on industrial assistance and had the prospect of a substantial improvement in the stock relief scheme.

There had been a useful discussion at NEDC last week on economic pricing for energy and there was no dispute that there should be no departure from the policy on economic pricing.

At the meeting it was agreed on all sides, by the CBI and the TUC, that it was right to set the price for energy at the market economic price and that was what the Government was doing.

In the last decade employment costs of all the major nationalized industries had risen much faster than the change in the rest of the economy.

It was important to do everything possible to make these industries more competitive and efficient—establishing competition alongside them referring them to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, giving them competition from the private sector and opportunities for privatization.

The Government was accepting costs, sometimes huge, for restructuring those industries to improve their efficiency in the future.

Industry was being given the help it needed by this Government, was recognizing the case for helping itself and was achieving great success in reducing its own unit costs by bringing down the costs of pay settlements.

The main manufacturing settlements in the new pay round were under 10 per cent and the Government was determined in the public sector to keep pay over which it had control under similar restraint. That was why it had set the 6 per cent pay cash limit for local authorities.

The problems that had taken years to develop could not and would not be solved overnight. The Government must stick steadfastly to the only policies that offered a real prospect of a rebirth of the productive economy.

There was nothing by way of alternatives to hope for from the Labour Party.

Under this Government (he said) we are now seeing the first signs of success. Inflation is falling; many sectors of enterprise are reasserting themselves; companies are tackling problems they have ignored for far too long. Of course, sacrifices have been and are being made. It would be totally crazy to throw away these gains now.

We should do nothing to betray the confidence of the workers and of industry by changing course now. (Conservative cheers and Labour protests.)

Workers terrified of losing jobs

Mr Tony Benn (Bristol, South East, Lab) said those members of the Government who spoke of unemployment as if they regretted it were being less than candid because the Chancellor's policy was to push up unemployment. Unemployment was now beginning to reach the level where it might have an effect upon wage settlements.

When it reached the present level industrial dictators like Sir Michael Edwardes and Mr Ian MacGregor could go to their workforces and say: "Unless you accept either a wage freeze or 6 per cent when inflation is 15 per cent we will sack the lot of you". (Conservative protests.) This was the basis upon which the Chancellor was founding his hopes.

Most workers were terrified they would lose their jobs because they believed the Prime Minister would be prepared to see unemployment rise to three or four million rather than give up her attack upon the trade union movement.

A statutory pay policy was an authoritarian pay policy. The Liberal Party's new plan was too Stalinist for the liking of the Labour Party or the Tory Party. (Laughter.)

The Chancellor was right when he suggested there was no going back to the policies of the last 35 years. But there was no going forward on the policies of mass unemployment.

There was a deep and abiding fear that industry was being destroyed. The Government elected in May, 1983 or 1984, would find that industry had been destroyed to the point where it could not sustain the living standards of the people. In some areas the crisis would be so deep and great that there would be no hope.

We shall (he said) inherit a situation where measures far more radical than those which were attempted by the postwar governments will be forced upon us.

The next Government—and he believed it would be a Labour Government—would be driven to a big investment programme on public account, financed from the oil revenues of £30,000m which had been his legacy to the Prime Minister. It will be (he added) from those sources we shall have to finance the expansion of our industries.

If they went for a planned reconstruction of their industries and public services that would mean not a policy of the market deciding but first things first and fair shares. That would involve a huge intervention in the mechanism of the market.

He saw no point in the trade union movement continuing to involve itself in this Government's policies. The time had come for the Labour movement to disengage from this Government. The reason was not just negative.

Labour would not compensate again for public assets that had been hived off. If there had been a running down of public education and health and a growing up of private education and health funded by the taxpayer Labour would bring them together and use them to cut the waiting lists and improve the schools system. That involved an economy far more democratically planned—but not, he hoped, at the centre—than Britain had had at any time since the war.

Recent events form salutary lesson for Bill on contempt

House of Lords

There were large numbers of cases in which warrants had been issued for people who had fled jurisdiction and on which it would be unreasonable to bar the press commenting indefinitely simply because the warrant had been issued, Lord Wigoder said at the committee stage of the Contempt of Court Bill.

Lord Wigoder (L) moved an amendment to Clause 3 (Defence of innocent publication or distribution) which, he said, was of a probing nature and dealt with the time strict liability was to run.

The starting point envisaged in the schedule to the Bill was the time of arrest for or the issuing of a warrant. But what would be the position of the press in a case like thatof Lord Lucan where despite a warrant having been issued it was apparent to everybody that proceedings were not imminent?

The amendment provided that where a publisher could show that although proceedings were active he had reasonable grounds for believing that the proceedings were not imminent, the strict liability rule would not apply. That would be a statutory defence for the press in such circumstances.

Lord Mishcon (Lab) said he resisted the amendment. Many peers who felt in principle that it was right that the freedom of the press and media should not be curtailed and therefore wanted to encourage the principles behind the Bill, had felt some disillusion over past weeks and wondered if their enthusiasm should be curtailed.

Peers knew of an event, and he did not intend mentioning names, which had occurred in recent weeks when someone had been arrested and charged with certain offences of a most serious nature.

Those of us who watched Independent Television and who had any idea of the principle of justice (he said) were horrified when we heard the news item recording these events to see not only congratulatory messages being passed by one police officer to another on that arrest but, furthermore, to see upon the screen articles which presumably had been taken from a certain vehicle connected with the accused to show some sort of connexion with the crimes which he was charged.

There were interviews with employers and neighbours and I began to tremble as to where indeed any relaxation of the law of contempt might lead us in the interests of justice, which we hold so dear and which extend to anybody until the jury has found him guilty.

Instead of minimizing the date of strict liability, he wondered if they should consider carefully every word and every stage when there dropped upon the media the need to be careful about words reported.

With the salutary lesson in their minds, they should look at the amendment with the greatest possible care.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, said he did not think the amendment would improve the Bill. Phillimore, which he was endeavouring to legislate, had come down against the imminence test very strongly because it was too vague and uncertain.

The amendment was withdrawn.

Protection of sources not part of Bill

It was utterly wrong that a journalist should run the risk of contempt of court because he desired to keep a confidence, Lord Scarman, a Lord of Appeal said.

He moved a new clause (Defence of confidentiality of source) which provided that a person was not guilty of contempt of court merely on the ground that he refused to disclose the source of information contained in a publication for which he was responsible, unless it was established to the satisfaction of the court that disclosure was necessary in the interests of national security or for the prevention of disorder or crime.

He said the public had a right to be informed about matters of public interest and the journalist, in the matter of his source of information, was in a special position.

The freedom of the press derived from the duty which society saw imposed on the press to keep it informed about matters that went wrong in high places, in the corridors of power—commercial, political, industrial or social.

That being so, it seemed utterly wrong that a journalist should run the risk of contempt of court because he desired to keep a confidence with sources of information which should be known because of its immense public importance.

The Bishop of London said the clause opened a door through which many other people with perfect right could ask to pass. There were doctors and welfare workers who would feel that their information and their sources were just as important as those possessed by journalists.

There was a great army of people who belonged to the various counselling services such as marriage guidance counsellors, the Samaritans, who in the course of their work had confessions, from individuals.

The clergy and ministers of religion received information from individuals which had only come to them on the clear understanding that it would never be revealed to anybody else.

This was an unwise amendment. **Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone**, the Lord Chancellor said that the amendment did not give privilege to the newspaper man, it gave a privilege in a particular class of case to everybody.

It said that even though relevent to a cause or matter anybody, whether the information was given in confidence or not, a doctor, a professional or not, was entitled to say to a judge: "You may have ordered me to give this information, but I am not going to".

That might be part of the law of confidentiality which might be in need of reform, but it had no proper part in this Bill which was concerned with criminal contempt.

Lord Morris (C) said that the public interest would be severely threatened if an amendment like this one was not made part of the Bill.

Modern government was responsible for spending increasingly millions upon millions of pounds of the taxpayers' money. Should a person responsible for the publication of a document be compelled in court under sanction of contempt to disclose his source?

There was no doubt that the well of truth would dry up. The public would be deprived of information with which it might be better placed to judge whether funds were being handled competently or otherwise.

Lord Scarman said that the immunity which journalists or others enjoyed in the courts was an immunity in practice and not in law. The judges went to great lengths to avoid insisting on replies to questions. The amendment related only to publications.

The amendment was withdrawn.

The committee stage was adjourned.

House adjourned, 8.29 pm.

Attorney General's consent

The Government would consider whether some limitation on the right to institute contempt proceedings would be appropriate, **Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone**, the Lord Chancellor, said.

Lord Elwyn-Jones (Lab) moved a new clause (Consent of Attorney General) which proposed that proceedings for a contempt of court under the strict liability rule (other than Scottish proceedings) should not be instituted other than with the Attorney General's consent.

He said in practice the Attorney General got involved in most contempt of court matters. The protection which the consent of the Attorney General would provide was important.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, said he did not pretend that he had found it easy to make up his mind on the amendment, and he was not sure he would not change it to some degree at the report stage.

It was a general rule in English law that the private individual had a right to bring criminal proceedings

He suggested that peers went away and thought about what could be done. He wondered whether civil litigation could be covered or some limitation put on the average member of the public. He did not think it would be right for the Attorney General's consent to be conditional to all contempt proceedings.

The new clause was withdrawn.

Metric 'Hansard' brings some filing problems

There were cheers when a peer criticized the new metric size of the *Official Report* of the House of Lords and urged reverting to the traditional format.

Lord Monson (Ind) asked—In view of the awkward and inconvenient dimensions of the new version of the *Official Report* will the Leader of the House (Lord Soames) consider reverting to the perfectly satisfactory traditional format? (cheers).

Lord Soames, Lord President of the Council—I would not recommend that. The change to the new A4 size took place at the beginning of this new session in accordance with the decision of the House on December 21, 1976 following a recommendation from the Offices Committee.

Lord Monson—The dimensions of the new style *Official Report* are such as to make it difficult for postmen to get it through the average letter box without creasing or occasionally tearing it.

It is too large to fold and put in an inside pocket for ready reference.

Lord Soames—This was taken into account by the Offices Committee who knew what the size was going to be.

Many of us have been accustomed to a particular size of *Hansard* and perhaps we are creatures of habit. I have no doubt we will adapt.

Lady Burton of Coventry (Lab)—I hope he will look at this again. As one who does her own filing, this is a problem if we have shelves or boxes for keeping *Hansard*.

Lord Soames—This has got a lot to do with the introduction of metrication. It is likely more and more papers are going to be printed on this A4 size paper, so I think filing systems will gradually be adapted to take more and more A4 paper.

Britain cannot reflate herself out of a world depression

Mr Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley, A) said the Liberal programme was put out not as a sectarian document but as an attempt to get some consensus among some people of all parties and to provide the country with a programme which would have a public mandate behind it.

The Government did not fully appreciate the horror of the fact, which had begun to dawn on the British people, that such institutional effects as there were from their policies would be short-lived and contained no structural elements which would remain. But the damage its policy was doing would, for the most part, be lasting.

Mr Ivan Lawrence (Burton, C) said the future of British industry lay in an expansion of markets, in getting out of seats in offices and looking for markets.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab) said the time had come in Britain to argue for resources to be planned in a bsic socialist way, to have production for the use of the people and not production for profit which tnded in the type of crisis there was today.

The Rev Ian Paisley (North Antrim, Dem U) said Northern Ireland was an economic wasteland that was becoming more and more desolate. No words could be strong enough in denouncing the policy which was pushing Ulster over the edge.

I could not live with my conscience (he said) if I did not vote for the Opposition motion.

Mr Kenneth Woolmer (Batley and Morley, Lab) said the Prime Minister was presiding over a serious collapse of much of the manufacturing industry and mounting personal and social hardship. She must change her policies or go.

Mr Nicholas Lyell (Hemel Hempstead, C) said the Government's monetary policy had been castigated as though it were an easy stick to wield, but he supported that broad monetary policy. It was nonsense to suggest that Britain's ills could be cured for the long-term by printing money in order to create short-term artificial demand.

Mr Michael Meacher (Oldham, West, Lab) said that for every one percentage point reduction the Government had achieved in the inflation rate, there would have been a one percentage point drop in national output plus an increase of 200,000 in unemployment.

Mr Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield, C) said with the advantage of indigenous energy resources, the Government should use these more to help British industry. Other countries with higher standards of living than Britain subsidized the energy costs of their industries.

Mr John Major (Huntingdonshire, C) said the Government would be right in the future if it decided selectively to intervene in industry to help areas where the problems were temporary and the result of the present uncertain trading conditions.

But spending taxpayers' money on those industries and areas that were practically in permanent decline would not be a good use of Government funds. It would not be fair to the next generation of children who would inherit these jobs in years to come.

Mr Ioan Evans (Aberdare, Lab) said Mrs Thatcher was like the captain of the *Titanic*, calling for full speed ahead despite seeing the iceberg.

Mr Eric Varley, chief Opposition spokesman on employment (Chesterfield, Lab) said the effects of the Government's economic policies almost made the nation look back with nostalgia to the three day week of seven years ago. Now, for some, it was a no-day week with the highest unemployment for half a century.

This week they had seen the new Secretary of State for Trade (Mr John Nott) who they all thought would stick it out if necessary to be the last remaining monetarist in Britain, increase the borrowing powers of British Airways by £85m.

The public sector of industry, which the Government had promised would be restricted and tamed as a result of its policies, would be receiving unprecedented quantities of money because of the failure of economic policies.

Money supply which was the lynchpin of Government policy was disastrously out of control.

At the Conservative Party conference last October the Prime Minister said "The lady's not for turning". Very soon the British people would make sure that, come the next election, she would be turned out of office. (Labour cheers.)

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment (Lowestoft, C), said the debate had been rather less than the relendess attack and exposure the House had been promised. What it had done was to show that first, of all there was little in the Opposition's case.

It had also shown that behind the Opposition there was Mr Benn, who was taking a totally different view from his front bench. Presumably there was, too, the view of Dr David Owen and others which wast completely different to that of Mr Michael Foot.

The Opposition front bench appeared to believe that Britain's serious problems could be cured by a dose of old-fashioned reflation.

Between 1977 and 1979 the Labour Government allowed the public sector borrowing requirement to go up again. Unemployment fell by a mere 150,000, despite pouring money into the economy and a large increase in real earnings and living standards.

Simply by reflation (he went on) what you will do, as happened last time, unless you get your economy competitive in the meantime, is to suck in the imports all over again.

We owe it to the British people (he said) to see that the suffering and indignities through which many are now passing are not in vain and are not to be repeated in an even more acute form on an even shorter time scale. This means continuing, above all, with the campaign to control inflation.

The nation could not reflate itself out of a depression; this would lead straight back into inflation with even higher unemployment.

The Opposition motion was rejected by 304 votes to 244—Government majority, 60. The Government amendment was agreed to.

Irish MEPs oppose rugby tour

European Parliament
Strasbourg

A move to have an emergency debate on a motion urging the Irish Rugby Football Union to call off its tour of South Africa was defeated during noisy exchanges.

The motion, tabled by the Socialist Group and signed by a number of other MEPs, including all 15 from the Republic of Ireland, expressed concern at the damage the tour could do to Ireland's standing, and image at international level, and at its likely effects on Irish and Community relations with the rest of Africa in all areas—political, cultural, commercial and sport.

It noted that the Irish Government had condemned the tour and called on it to consider all possible sanctions in the event of it not being cancelled.

Mr John Hume (Northern Ireland, Soc) calling for the emergency debate, said the fact that all 15 Republic MEPs had signed the motion underlined the strength of feeling that existed in Ireland on the issue. They should not be under any illusions as to use which the South African regime made of tours such as this to bolster its vicious system of apartheid.

They should use their influence as a Parliament to dissuade those who would give sustenance to that regime by their action. A vote to have an emergency debate would be ample demonstration of the strength of European feeling and perhaps have a positive effect in having the tour cancelled.

Mr Michael O'Leary (Ireland, Soc) said the decision of the Rugby Union to accept the invitation to tour South Africa was in direct conflict with the Irish Government's frequently repeated condemnation of the regime's apartheid practices. The tour could not be regarded as simply a sporting event.

By going to South Africa, the Irish touring side would automatically confer approval on the general apartheid practices of the regime, and the tour would encourage those directly responsible within South Africa for the discriminatory organization of sport in that country.

Democratic states must ensure that politically, economically and culturally an international boycott should be maintained against South Africa until that country granted basic human rights to all its inhabitants.

Mr Peter Beazley (Bedfordshire, ED) said his group would vote against an emergency debate. The tour did not start next week nor even before the next sitting. Much as his group abhorred apartheid it noted that multiracial rugby football at national level was today normal in South Africa.

Herr Egon Klepsch (West Germany, EPP) said they had had innumerable debates on the Parliament's position in regard to South Africa. He could see no reason why they should have an emergency debate, unless it was to satisfy the propagandist purposes of certain people.

Mr Thomas Maher (Ireland, LD) said racial discrimination was not the only kind of discrimination. Last year when they debated participation by countries in the Olympic Games in Moscow the Socialist appealed to support the concept of going there.

Whatever the South Africans might have done in infringing human rights it was nothing compared with what the Russians had done and continued to do. Parliament should be consistent in condemning infringement of human rights.

Mr Ernest Glinne (Belgium, Soc) said those who doubted whether this matter was urgent should read extracts from the South African press, because it appeared from them that the prospect of a visit by the Irish rugby team was already being exploited by the regime.

The call to have an emergency debate was rejected on a show of hands by a majority of about two to one.

Parliament agreed by 120 votes to 100 to have an emergency debate tomorrow (Friday) on the European Commission proposal to give export refunds to whisky manufacturers who use cereals grown in the Community in their products. The commission had requested Parliament's opinion on the proposal, agreed during last year's farm price negotiations.

EEC urged to expand nuclear power output

Fears that the Iran-Iraq conflict would seriously jeopardize oil supplies to the Community had not been justified, Mr Gerard van Aardenne, the Dutch minister for the economy, speaking for the Council of Ministers, said.

During a debate on the development of alternative energy sources he said that Iraq had resumed supplies after an interruption, other countries had increased their production, and the high level of stocks had made it possible to limit the effects of the Middle East hostilities.

However, the decision of Opec again to put up oil prices had profound consequences for an already precarious world situation and meant dramatic problems for the industrialized countries.

Parliament was considering a report from the energy and research committee on the possibility of an alternative energy strategy based on better energy conservation, the rapid development of renewable sources, and stabilizing consumption at roughly the present level through savings in use.

The committee proposed further research and investment to develop new sources of energy, including solar heating and cooling systems, conversion of agricultural and urban waste into liquid and gaseous fuels, and wind energy. It said that much progress could be made by introducing small-scale production based on non-fossil and non-nuclear energy to reduce dependence on imported energy.

Mr Madron Seligman (West Sussex, Ed) said future jobs depended on investment in cheaper energy. The latest nuclear power stations showed that nuclear electricity could be more than three times cheaper than oil-fired electricity.

The French realized this and were going flat out on nuclear power, one new power station every three months. Nuclear power provided 22 per cent of their electricity now and would reach 75 per cent by 1990.

What was stopping the rest of them? The answer was scaremongering by the environmentalists. Every time they prevented the building of a nuclear station they destroyed thousands of jobs for construction workers and equipment makers. Nuclear scaremongering was a luxury the West could not afford.

Viscount Etienne Davignon, Commissioner for Energy and Industry, said they must examine the possible benefits of renewable energy resources. Resources which might not be economically viable in Community countries could be in others.

Having been in office for only a week it was not possible for the Commission today to set out its approach to energy policy and the place it held in the Commission's overall priorities for the next four years. This would be put forward in February.

The report will be voted upon tomorrow.

Clean cells at Maze still clean

The Government could not, and would not, introduce a regime which would give a group of prisoners the substance of their demand for political status, Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said during questions about the hunger strikers in the Maze and Armagh prisons.

Mr Atkins (Spelthorne, C) said: I have had no contact with the hunger strikers myself. They were made aware of the regime that I described in my statement of December 19 through the established machinery of prison administration.

Since the hunger strike ended, 40 prisoners have ceased their protest at HM Prison Maze, and are now benefiting from that regime. They have been moved to clean furnished cells, have been given the new civilian-type clothing, have been allowed to send for their own leisure clothing to wear out of working hours, and have been given the privileges of association, visits, letters and parcels available to all conforming prisoners.

They are in the process of being assessed and allocated to suitable activities during working hours.

Once they end their protest, these same facilities are available to the 428 prisoners still persisting in their protest at Maze, and also in their essentials to the 29 women protesters at Armagh.

A group of protesters was moved to clean cells at Maze on Monday as part of the normal cleaning cycle. Some of these cells were furnished normally, the prisoners have not fouled or damaged them and I am repeating this move today.

As this process continues, I hope that all protesting prisoners will be encouraged to end their protest altogether.

Since December 19, the Government has pursued exactly the course set out in my statement of that day. The privileges available can only apply to those who conform with prison rules.

He added later: I think the issue is solved and that the prisoners recognize there is no way the Government is going to give them the political status which they have been demanding all these years. (Cheers.)

Business vote in elections

The omission of business and commercial votes in local government elections needed looking at in the review of the rating system, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister said during questions. Mr John Heddle (Lichfield and Tamworth, C) had said: Mrs Thatcher should consider the plight of the industrial and commercial ratepayers, particularly those with premises in areas run by extravagant Labour-controlled councils.

Local democracy might have a much-needed shot in the arm if consideration were given to the reintroduction of the business vote

Debate on energy policy

The main business in the House of Commons will be:

Monday: Criminal Attempts Bill, second reading. Greater Manchester Bill, second reading.

Tuesday: European Assembly Elections Bill, remaining stages. Water Bill, second reading.

Wednesday: Debate on Opposition motion on energy policy.

Thursday: Debate on Welsh affairs.

Friday: Private members' motions.

The main business in the House of Lords will be:

Monday: *Deep Sea Mining (Temporary Provisions)* Bill, second reading. Energy Conservation Bill, committee. Motion to annul Control of Pollution (Special Waste) Regulations.

Tuesday: Contempt of Court Bill, committee (second day.)

Wednesday: Debate on transport policy.

Thursday: Town and Country Planning (Minerals) Bill, second reading. Debate on European Communities Committee report on European social fund.

Parliamentary notices

House of Commons

Today at 9.30: Private members' motions on the power of select committees and on the labelling of textiles

Red Brigades gunmen free kidnapped judge in Rome street

From John Earle
Rome, Jan 15

Judge Giovanni D'Urso, the most prominent victim of a Red Brigades kidnapping since the murder of Signor Aldo *Moro in spring, 1978,* was freed here today after 34 days in confinement.

The judge, a Sicilian, aged 48, employed in the Justice Ministry's prisons department, was "sentenced" to death like *the Christian Democrat* statesman, but released after the views of the *Brigatisti*—including those in maximum-security jails—were given wide publicity.

[Judge D'Urso told investigators he was held captive chained to a camp bed in a tent, which was inside a room in a flat, shop *or garage. He was forced to* listen endlessl yto music from loudspeakers, presumably to *disguise* noises from outside. Judge D'Urso said his prison was prepared in advance and he was driven to it almost immediately after he was kidnapped.

Police said Judge D'Urso described how he was ambushed near his home on December 12, hit over the head, hooded and driven for about two hours to his "*prison*". During his captivity he saw only two people: His guerrilla interro*gator and "housekeeper", both* of them always hooded.

The only time the music stopped was during his interrogation. The "inquisitor" was an educated man with a knowledge of the Italian justice and prison systems.

Judge D'Urso, however, said the questions were "useless, because *he already knew all* the answers". All he was required to do was fill in details of his working relationships with magistrates and officials whose *names his captors already knew.*

Judge D'Urso said he had been allowed to hear appeals broadcast for his release by his wife and daughter, but otherwise he had had no news.

The only time he had feared *for his life was last night, when* his captors gave him back his clothes and loaded him, blindfolded and with stereo headphones, into a lorry.—Reuter.]

Bound and gagged, the judge was found in the back seat of a locked Fiat car with false number plates after a telephone call at 7.38 am to the Italian news agency Ansa.

Over his ears were headphones from a portable radio playing music. The car, which was stolen, was parked in the old *Jewish* ghetto, about 250 yards from the ministry where the judge works and about 150 yards from the side street where Signor Moro's body was found.

Police immediately set up road blocks. They said they *were looking for a white BMW* car with Rome number plates, driven by a man with a dark moustache and with two other passengers. The judge's release had been expected since yesterday, when a Red Brigades leaflet found near the opera house said they were letting *him go as an act of magnanimity* because their objectives had been achieved.

The judge, unshaven and still wearing the clothes in which *he was seized while returning* home on the evening of December 12, was in good physical health. He was taken to the main police headquarters, where *he embraced his wife and two* daughters and answered questions for two and a half hours.

The release, which was greeted with relief by President Sandro Pertini, *the Pope, and* representatives of all political parties, came while the Chamber of Deputies was debating terrorism after a low-key introductory speech yesterday by Signor Arnaldo Forlani, the Prime Minister. The debate is due to end with a vote of confidence.

Beyond the general satisfaction, however, opinions were sharply divided. *Enthusiastic if not euphoric comments came* from the socialists, the second party in the coalition, and from the small Radical Party, whose *members last week visited* the prisoners in two maximum-security jails, Trani and Palmi. *They claimed that willingness to* compromise and the publication of the prisoners' proclamations in the press had paid dividends and saved the judge's life.

The other parties, particularly the Republicans in the coalition, the Liberals and the Communists, took a more sombre line, emphasizing that the battle against terrorism was far from won. It was made known from the Quirinal Palace that President Pertini was also of this opinion. The Communists posted up placards which, beyond expressing satisfaction that a life *had been saved, accused* the Government of "inadmissible concessions".

Indeed, except among Socialists and Radicals, political attention is focused sharply on the effects of the Red Brigades *tactics, that appear more refined* than at the time of the Moro *kidnapping. Besides dividing* the political world, they have split public opinion and the press, with some important newspapers publishing the proclamations of the Trani and Palmi prisoners in full, though most held out against this.



Headline for freedom: A Rome newspaper announces the release of Signor D'Urso.

Portuguese President enjoys the limelight

From Richard Wigg
Lisbon, Jan 15

The Portuguese Government presents its programme to Parliament tomorrow, but the event seems certain to be overshadowed by the speech made *yesterday by President Eanes* when he was sworn in for a second five-year term.

The contrast in terms of experience between Senhor *Francisco Pinto* Balsemão, the 43-year-old former magazine editor who has only just taken over as Prime Minister of the ruling coalition, and President Eanes, the 45-year-old former general, who has five taxing *but generally successful* years in office behind him, is there for all to see.

The Prime Minister has a parliamentary majority just so long as the 134 votes of the governing coalition hold together in Portugal's 250-member *Assembly of the Republic.*

President Eanes, however, is at the height of his power and influence after winning 56 per cent of the popular vote under Portugal's *semi-presidential,* semi-parliamentary system last month—despite all the efforts *of the ruling Democratic* Alliance to stop him winning a second term of office.

While the Government's programme tomorrow will have to tackle *immediate domestic* worries, the President, in a speech which showed him fully aware of *his* stature upon Portugal's political stage, was able to enjoy the easier task of outlining the country's future.

It seems that the essential *consolidation phase of* Portuguese democracy has been accomplished after the two elections of last autumn. But President Eanes would be the *first to say that the political* framework must now be filled in with genuine social and economic justice—and he did that yesterday, castigating those who sought to react to a Western world in crisis by returning to old authoritarian *formulas.*

His speech dealing with the "grand orientations" of Portugal—its indispensable modernization and adaptation to a *profoundly changed world after* the whole European colonial era had ended—was, as the President noted, reminiscent of presidential addresses in France's Fifth Republic.

But the Portuguese system is not like the Fifth Republic and the "grand orientations", will be quickly brought down to earth in tomorrow's government programme.

President Eanes felt confident enough to surrender certain powers—from next month, he announced, he would no longer combine being the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces with the presidency.

He thus completes the "normalization" of Portugal's Armed Forces after the post-1974 revolutionary phase.

The President was making his contribution to the Democratic Alliance's intention to transform Portugal into "a full Western democracy", with its Armed Forces under the control of the civilian government. To achieve this the constitution must be amended and the Council of the Revolution—the Armed Forces' watchdog—wound up. This seems likely to happen by June.

The *Socialist Party,* however, has already indicated a certain unease that the Government might be tempted in turn to interfere inside the barracks too much.

The right-wing Centre Democrats, and some of the more conservative Social Democrats of the Prime Minister's own party in the coalition, today began sniping at the President for "interfering" with his *striking call* for Portugal's pluralist democracy—the most used phrase in his address—to include a press and state-run television and radio, free from government pressures.

President Eanes again took the *high ground,* uttering words which pleased Portugal's professional journalists (as opposed to the party hangers-on coopted for the jobs) after *wearying months of all kinds* of pressure ordered by Dr Francisco Sá Carneiro, the late Prime Minister, when the bitterly fought general and presidential elections were under way.

Six detained Corsicans end hunger strike

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Jan 15

Six Corsican autonomists decided *today* to end *their* hunger strike after the Court *of State Security* ruled that they would be tried in their *absence* on *charges* of kidnapping and being members of an armed band.

Four of them were medically unfit to attend the hearing when it opened yesterday. The six, who have been on hunger strike for nine weeks, said that since the court was determined *to judge them, whatever the circumstances,* "our suffering has become useless".

The hearing is likely to be adjourned for a few days so that men who were on hunger strike can recover sufficiently to attend the hearing.

In its ruling today the court said that those on hunger strike, *like* two others who were refusing to attend the hearing, had made a voluntary decision not to appear. The hunger strike, it said, was an attempt to exert pressure on the court "in the same way as a street demonstration".

The court also said that the prison service was in no way wrong in having taken the *necessary steps* "conforming to the right to live" to give medical care to those on *hunger* strike.

The *case of two other* defendants, whose lawyer produced a medical certificate stating that they were unfit to attend, would have to be heard separately, the court decided, although it commented that the certificates "were not very *convincing*".

The present hearing will deal with the cases of 15 defendants—including the six who were on hunger strike. The case arises out of an incident a year ago when Corsican autonomists tried to hold prisoner two men who they alleged were the leaders of Francia, the terrorist *organization* which fights against the autonomists.

France sets aside £10m for 'gasohol'

From Ian Murray
Paris, Jan 15

The French Government has agreed to fund a multi-*million-pound research* programme to substitute alcohol for oil products in the fuel tanks of the nation. If the plan succeeds, the Government *hopes that by 1990 half the fuel* it needs for transport will be home grown.

Next year 100 million francs (about £10m) will be made *available to research and* develop products and engines.

Methanol from wood, gas or coal is one line of the research, another is the hydrolysis and fermentation of crops like straw, sweet corn and globe artichokes.

M André Giraud, the Minister for Industry, told the Cabinet that existing *research* had led his department to believe that within four to five years it *should be possible to save 10 per cent of the nation's oil* consumption.

French automobile constructors have already told the Ministry they *will* cooperate with the programme and say that with only minor modifications it should be possible to meet the new requirements, even using existing models.

The next step envisaged by the programme is the introduction of a fuel with a much higher proportion of alcohol, *which would be sold by garages along with the more traditional fuel.*

The potential saving to energy-conscious France is estimated as *being in the* region of 1.5 million tonnes of oil annually in the first stage *and up to 12 million* tonnes a year by 1990.

To succeed the programme would seem to require a vast increase in the necessary crops. *Wood, which is one of the best* sources of alcohol, is already in great demand for industry and paper pulp.

However, the research projects are finding other useful sources of vegetable power—sunflower and rape oil can be *used in diesel engines,* and beetroot and sugar cane can help produce an alcohol-laced fuel, although beet prices are currently too high.

According to one government report, the best crop to use would be the globe artichoke, which tradition claims was the mainstay diet of the French during the Second World War.

Brazil, which last year mixed *3.8 million tonnes of sugarcane* alcohol with petrol for use in cars, currently has the largest programme of this type. Its use of sugar cane for fuel has had a marked *effect* on world sugar prices.

Other countries including Japan, *West Germany* and Canada, have launched experimental *programmes* for oil substitutes, but none on the scale of that France has proposed.

Chief Burgomaster of West Berlin resigns

From Gretel Spitzer,
Berlin, Jan 15

Herr Dietrich Stobbe, the Chief Burgomaster of West Berlin and his Social Democratic-Free Democratic government resigned after barely two years *in office today. He announced* his decision after he failed to get the approval of the House of Representatives for the appointment of four members *of the Senate,* the city government, after a reshuffle.

While Herr Stobbe's defeat came as a shock to those immediately involved, it did not surprise political observers. Lack of leadership, a financial scandal and housing problems have caused widespread criticism of his government for some time.

A call by the opposition Christian Democrats for new elections got considerable support in the city. But spokesmen for the coalition parties *said* they were determined to continue their coalition and would submit the names of new candidates for the offices of Chief Burgomaster and senators to the Berlin House of Representatives within 21 days.

Herr Willy Brandt, chairman of the *Social Democratic Party,* and Herr Hans-Jurgen Wischnewski, deputy chairman of the party, flew to Berlin tonight after talks with Herr Helmut *Schmidt,* the West German Chancellor.

The Christian Democrats have been steadily gaining ground in the city.

Herr Heinrich Lummer, president of the House of Representatives, denied with the approval of the House, that *today's special session* interrupted by the defeat and the resignation some hours later of Herr Stobbe, would not continue tonight but would be adjourned until further notice.

Danish nominee may not get agriculture portfolio

From Michael Hornsby
Strasbourg, Jan 15

Mr Poul Dalsager, the Danish Minister of Agriculture, who was named by his Government *yesterday to be Denmark's new* European Commissioner in Brussels, cannot expect automatically to assume *the* agriculture job held previously by his late compatriot, Mr Finn Olav Gundelach.

Mr Anker Joergensen, the *Danish Prime Minister,* has left no one in any doubt that he expects Denmark to keep the agriculture portfolio, which is one of the most important in the Commission. But it emerged here *today* that the Danish claim could be challenged.

Mr Gaston Thorn, the president of the Commission, and his fellow-commissioners are expected to decide next week on the permanent allocation of *the Agriculture and Fisheries* responsibilities previously handled by Mr Gundelach. Mr Thorn has himself assumed temporary charge of agriculture, and Mr George Kontogeorgis, the new Greek Commissioner, has been entrusted with fisheries.

Allowing Mr Dalsager to take over Mr Gundelach's job would have the attraction of simplicity and avoid the danger of a general *reshuffle* which might reopen the wounds left by last week's difficult negotiations on the distribution of posts within the Commission.

Against that, however, some members of the Commission are asking whether an Agriculture Minister from a country which has a clear national interest in seeing the EEC's agricultural policy maintained in its present form is the best person to have in charge when the Community is supposed to be embarking on reform of its finances.

From a narrowly British point of view, a reshuffle is seen as having possible advantages if it releases a new job for Mr Michael O'Kennedy, the Irish Commissioner, whose present function understudying the president in the preparation of the Commission's proposals on financial reform is resented by Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the Budget Commissioner, as a *trespass on his territory.*

In the meantime, the Commission's agricultural department is reported to have drawn up preliminary proposals for a 5 per cent to 6 per cent rise in EEC farm prices this year, though these still have to be discussed and approved by the Commission as a whole.

A price rise of this order would be likely to be acceptable to Mr Peter Walker, the British Minister of Agriculture, given the much bigger rise in farmers' *production costs* over the past year. But France and some other countries are understood to want a price increase of more than 10 per cent.

Reservists to be disciplined

From Our Own Correspondent
Bonn, Jan 15

Herr Hans Apel, the West German Defence Minister, has ordered disciplinary proceedings against two Reserve Army officers *who flouted his ban on* Bundeswehr uniforms at last week's funeral of Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz, Hitler's successor as head of the Third Reich.

The ban on uniforms and military honours and the absence of state representatives *underlined* Bonn's break with the past and in particular with the old military principles, which Dönitz embodied, of blind obedience and unquestioning loyalty.

The proceedings look like being complicated because reserve officers are not subject to the same requirements of obedience as active ones. They are forbidden to wear uniforms except when on exercise.

Lapp protest foiled

Oslo, Jan 15.—Hundreds of Lapp demonstrators against an *hydroelectric project* in northern Norway were today removed from the site on the Alta river as construction machinery moved in, officials said.

Roger Moore fined

Grasse, France, Jan 15.—Roger Moore, the British actor *who* is known for his roles as The Saint and James Bond, was fined 2,000 francs (about £200) today for causing injury to two people in a traffic accident.

French nuclear plant to be modified

From Our Correspondent
Paris, Jan 15

The French electricity authority has agreed to a *number* of modifications to the design for its controversial nuclear power station, due to be built near Plogoff on the Cap Sizun peninsula in Finistère.

Announcing the alterations, M Jean-Michel Fauve, *who is* to be in charge of the construction site, said yesterday that in future the EDF intended to involve itself not only in the *general interest but in the local* interest, "which has not perhaps been sufficiently done in the past".

The modifications, he said, would mean that the new power station would be reduced in height so that it could not be seen from either the top of the peninsula or the town of Plogoff. In addition, a special zone would be prepared for marine culture which would bring fresh jobs to the area. "The power station must not appear like a pustule on Cap Sizun", he said.

M Fauve promised that he would put all his cards on the table and he *believed* that in the end this would make the local people realize there were more benefits than disadvantages in the scheme.

He was sure that in the end it would be possible to build the power station without having to call for military protection. He expressed this belief to a meeting of local elected representatives, although the *mayor and council of* Plogoff, who have promised to oppose the scheme by every means available, were conspicuous by their absence.

The *running of two French* nuclear stations — Tricastin in the Drome and Bugey, near Lyon — has been interrupted this week by what are described officially as "incidents".

At Tricastin, which is a *uranium* enrichment plant, a small explosion occurred in a building which houses chemical products used for purifying gases discharged from the factory. *The management says the* incident had no serious consequences and an inquiry has begun into its causes.

At Bugey the electrical supply from one unit was cut off on Monday after a test of one of the safety systems.

Meanwhile, the Socialist group in the *National Assembly* has decided to press for a parliamentary inquiry into the causes of the fire which broke out last week in a storage silo of nuclear waste at the reprocessing plant of La Hague, near Cherbourg.

M Claude Quilès, national *secretary* of the party, on Tuesday denounced what he called the "insufficiency" of information given out by the management about the fire. France, he said, was the only country with an important nuclear programme which did not have a law dealing specifically with the organization of nuclear safety.

The Pope warns Mr Walesa that Poland's independent trade unions must remain non-political

From John Earle
Rome, Jan 15

The Pope today gave his support to the Polish independent trade union organization, Solidarity, telling Mr Lech Walesa, its leader, that the union's foundation had been an event of great importance but that it must remain non-political in character.

Receiving a Solidarity delegation of 15, the Pope said he had heard with joy of the approval "in our homeland" of its statute *two* months ago.

There did not exist, "because there must not exist, a contradiction between such a social initiative by working men and the structures of a system which looks on human labour as fundamental to state and social life".

After stating that the events of last autumn had been directed against no one, the Pontiff went on: "The activity of trade unions does not have a political character, but it must not be the instrument for action by anyone, by any political party, so as to concentrate, in an exclusively and entirely autonomous manner, on the great *social benefit* of human labour and of the men of labour."

He concluded by recommending courage, but also prudence and moderation, which "are required by the well-being and peace of our homeland".

The audience was the high point in the seven-day visit ending on Monday by Mr Walesa and the other union leaders. They were invited as guests of *Italian trade unions, but* Mr Walesa made no secret that his main interest was to see the Pope.

The audience began at 11 am with a 25-minute private meeting between the Pope and Mr Walesa in the Pope's library. Then Mr Walesa's wife and stepfather—who has come from the United States—were introduced briefly, followed by the other 14 members of the delegation. The last part of the audience, which lasted altogether an hour and a half, was a public ceremony in the Hall of the Consistory.

Here speeches were made. Mr Walesa speaking, without notes for three minutes, said: "We are not, and never will be, a political group. Political affairs do not interest us. We are interested in the rights of man, the right of faith, for its free proclamation and confession."

The audience ended with an exchange of gifts and with all present singing in Polish the national sacred song "God protect Poland".

Yesterday the delegation visited the Benedictine Abbey of Monte Cassino, the war cemetery where General Wladyslaw *Anders*, the Polish commander, and many of his troops lie buried, and the earthquake stricken town of Avellino. For the rest of their stay, Mr Walesa and his companions are in the hands of the Italian trade unions.

German invitation: Mr Walesa has accepted an invitation to visit West Germany in the first half of February, a spokesman for the West German trade union federation DGB, said today (Patricia Clough writes from Bonn).

The DGB invited Mr Walesa after its representatives, unlike trade union delegations from other western countries, were refused visas to enter Poland. The refusal has not been explained, the spokesman said.

Leading article, page 13



The Pope embraces Mr Lech Walesa as he kneels during a private audience at the Vatican.

Warsaw transport strike called

From Dessa Trevisan
Warsaw, Jan 15

Amid increasing official warnings that the process of renewal promised by the Communist Party can be threatened if pressures continue. the Warsaw branch of Solidarity trade union organization has called a four-hour public transport strike in the capital for tomorrow. It is meant as a warning to the authorities not to punish the workers who stayed away from work last Saturday.

At the same time, the Warsaw Solidarity leaders have expressed willingness to negotiate and consider the Government's argument about the needs of the economy, insisting, however, on the principle of a five-day week to be guaranteed by legislation.

It was against this background that the Communist Party leaders yesterday, issued a new warning at a meeting of party committees from main industrial plants.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Stanislaw Kania, the party leader, and the speakers left no doubt that the authorities were hardening their views and accusing Solidarity of unwillingness to cooperate, increasing tension, and stirring up unrest over the five-day week.

There are signs that the Solidarity leaders are finding it more and more difficult to restrain their rank and file. This is particularly so in the provinces, where the local leaders complain of strong official pressure.

Occupation strikes are continuing in the provinces, and Solidarity leaders to restrain the militants. This, in fact, was the message conveyed from the party meeting by Mr Kazimierz Barcikoski, a Politburo member regarded as a moderate reformer. He said that anarchy and continuous pressure obstructed and threatened the programme of reforms. All such attempts against the stability of the state would be resisted by the party.

Mr Barcikowski accused provincial Solidarity leaders of trying to exist organized pressure on the authorities and the militant groups in the Solidarity national leadership of overstepping the union's statutory prerogatives. This, he said, was "extremely dangerous", as there could be no dual authority in Poland.

Mr Grabski, a Politburo member in charge of economic reform, said the Government's proposal of alternative solutions of the five-day week controversy was the only sensible one in the present difficult economic circumstances. He accused Solidarity of irresponsibility stirring up tension. This, he said, was a "trial of *strength*".

The GGovernment has gone a long way in trying to avoid confrontation on this issue. It has proposed two free Saturdays in a month on the basis of a normal eight-hour working day. As an alternative, it pro posed a five-day week but with the working day lengthened by half an hour. The unions re jected it outright, and accused the Government of going back on its promise.

Obviously, the troubles in the south of Poland, as well as the tension aroused by the uncertainty whether the Government will penalize the nearly four million workers who stayed away from work last Saturday, are not creating a propitious climate for talks.

The party is seeking ways of reforming itself and Mr Barcikowski indicated the line the reforms were likely to follow. There would be a free debate within party cells, but once decisions were taken they would be binding. There was also a promise of more genuine elections within the party organization with a choice of candidates, but there was no place in the scheme for pluralism.

The Politburo as well as the executive are subject to control, and a reform in the party apparatus would allow more mobility of staff. The terms of office would be limited on all levels. The Polish party membership has reached three million, and there would now be an emphasis on quality

The attempt to inject democratic principles into party life is however, limited. Mr Barcikowski left no doubt that he struggle within the party ranks was equally against conservative elements —*that* were still hoping that the party apparatus would soon recover full control, as well as against liberals clamouring for far-reaching reforms to give the rank and file a real influence on the leadership and policies.

Western aid: Talks on Western financial aid to Poland, which had been expected tomorrow, will take place in February to allow time for the Reagan Administration to be installed in Washington, informed sources said in Paris today.—Reuter.

Mr Carter proposes 5% defence rise

From David Cross
Washington, Jan 15

President Carter today proposed a defence budget totalling about $184,000m (£78,767m) for the forthcoming financial year, which is in line with his longstanding promise to increase military spending by 5 per cent a year in real terms.

The request for an increase of more than $23,000m over this year's defence spending reflected a "careful balance between the need to meet all critical defence needs, while maintaining fiscal restraint", he said in a message to Congress, which will have a final say over the budget.

This year, because Mr Carter is leaving office, the budget will also be open to modifications by the incoming Administration of Mr Ronald Reagan before it comes under the close scrutiny of members of Congress. Mr Reagan has already made it clear that defence spending will be one of the areas of government spending in which he will be particularly interested, and for that reason today's figures should not be taken too seriously.

In his message to Congress, Mr Carter made what was probably an oblique reference to Mr Reagan's likely influence on defence spending. "There will be advocates for higher defence levels, but after careful review I do not believe that higher spending would add significantly to our national security"

Mr Carter said that the defence budget was designed to meet three main requirements—to improve personnel recruitment and retention, to enhance combat readiness, and to modernize America's armed forces.

He said that he had recently approved the "largest pay and benefits" increase in *history*, totalling about $4,500m and representing an increase in "average compensation" of 16 per cent. "Our armed forces can be no better than the quality of the people who serve in them," he said.

Other funds in the budget should alleviate shortages in critical spare parts and inadequate funds for training, Mr Carter believed. These were the main sources of readiness problems.

Finally, the outgoing President was proposing "major investments" to enhance substantially the capabilities of America's armed forces.

Economy, page 17

'Watergate shadow will stalk Mr Haig'

Continued from page 1

nominations was taken by the full Senate next week.

He was confident that formal approval for the Secretary of State-designate would be forthcoming *shortly* after Mr Reagan was sworn formally into office next Tuesday.

After today's overwhelming vote in the committee it is now a foregone conclusion that Mr Haig will be supported by the full Senate. However, a continuing, albeit small, question mark will continue to hang over him probably for many months.

This is because the committee agreed, in deference to the wishes of some of its Democratic members, to seek indexes to some 100 hours of tape recordings involving Mr Haig and Mr Nixon during the final days of Watergate.

The committee issued a subpoena for the material last weekend but, because of objections from Mr Nixon, the transfer of the lists from the national archives where they are stored is expected to get bogged down in a long legal wrangle. The committee wants the indexes to try to determine whether any of the conversations held in the Oval Office of the White House are relevant to Mr Haig's suitability as Secretary of State.

However, it may well be that the committee never obtains the material it wants. In earlier court cases, Mr Nixon has usually been successful in barring outside access to most of the tape recordings.

Trade ambassador: Mr William Brock, chairman of the Republican Party, was appointed Special Trade Representative today, one of the final Cabinet-level posts to be filled by Mr Reagan.

As Special Trade Representative, Mr Brock will serve as the new President's personal representative in foreign trade matters and will hold the rank of ambassador.

Mr Brock, aged 50, a political moderate, was given much of the credit for helping to unite the party behind Mr Reagan to achieve its landslide electoral victory last November. But his actions in broadening the party's appeal made him unpopular with right-wing Republicans who unsuccessfully sought to oust him from the party leadership.—Reuter.

'Definitive' Iranian reply to US on hostages

Tehran, Jan 15.—The Iranian reply to the latest United States proposals concerning the liberation of the American hostages here was transmitted today to Algiers where Mr Warren Christopher, the Deputy Secretary of State, is standing by.

The American proposals were brought here on January 2 by the Algerian officials acting as intermediaries between Washington and Tehran. There had been several recent exchanges of messages between Iranians and Americans via Algiers before today's reply, which was described here as definitive.

Mr Muhammad Ali Rajai, the Iranian Prime Minister, and Mr Behzad Nabavi, the negotiator over the hostages, visited Ayatollah Khomeini today, raising speculation that they were seeking his approval of a deal to free the hostages.

Diplomatic sources said that Mr Rajai was expected to announce a deal within the next day or two but that the 52 Americans were unlikely to be freed before Mr Ronald Reagan became President on January 20.

The Carter Administration was no longer insisting on tomorrow as a deadline for Iran to respond to the latest American counter-offer for the hostages' release, the sources said. This appeared to indicate that Mr Reagan had agreed to honour any deal based on the Carter Administration's bargaining with Iran.

Today's visit by Mr Rajai and Mr Nabavi to the ayatollah was reported tersely by the official news agency. The spiritual leader's approval is always sought on important issues.

Apparently because he was with the ayatollah, Mr Nabavi was unable to receive the ambassadors of West European countries and Japan who delivered a Note calling for the hostages' early release. The Note had been drawn up to support President's Carter's moves to end the crisis, one diplomat said.

In Washington a State Department spokesman said that the Iranian reply was a "substantive response" to the latest American position delivered 13 days ago. "Until we have an opportunity to evaluate the Iranian response, we cannot predict whether it will enable the parties to resolve their differences," the spokesman added.—Agence France-Presse and Reuter.

Asian chosen to be Uganda's envoy in London

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, Jan 15

President Obote has appointed Mr Shafiq Arain, the only Asian member of his newly-appointed Cabinet, to be Uganda's High Commissioner in London. He will retain his membership of the Cabinet as Minister without Portfolio in the President's office, Uganda radio announced.

Mr Arain was prominent in Ugandan politics during the pre-independence period, when he organized support for Dr Obote among other Ugandan Asians. He was a member of Parliament from independence in 1962 until the 1971 military coup which ousted President Obote, and was also Uganda's Minister to the East African Community at the time of the coup.

After several years of exile in Britain, he returned to Uganda last year with Dr Obote and helped to organize the Uganda People's Congress campaign for last month's elections. He is married with three children.

Israeli police clamp down on Druze after murder of Bedu politician

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, Jan 15

This week's brutal murder of Shaikh Muhammad Abu Rabia, the first Bedu elected to the Knesset, has focused political attention on Israel's most colourful minority.

Although gradually — and often reluctantly — adapting to the changing circumstances of the twentieth century, the Beduin still cling proudly to the desert traditions, styles of dress and ways of life. "The camel may have given way to the Peugeot van in many instances, but the tribal customs are still largely intact", an Israeli academic said.

One of the most revered traditions is the concept of the "blood feud", and as a result, heavy police reinforcements have been drafted into villages in northern Galilee inhabited by another minority sect, the Arab Druze. A number of Druze—including a lieutenant in the Israeli Army—have been arrested in connexion with the killing, and the courts have banned the publication of their names in an effort to avoid reprisals.

Shaikh Abu Rabia was leader of the dominant tribe in the Negev, the barren desert region where some 40,000 Beduin are now concentrated. Others live in Galilee, but most have foresaken nomadic habits for a more conventional existence.

Most Beduin who are citizens of Israel, have traditionally voted for the opposition Labour Party, to which Shaikh Abu Rabia was affiliated, but in recent years they have become increasingly driven to radical policies as the result of a bitter dispute with the present Government over tribal land rights.

The dispute has been centred on a large tract of Negev land at Tel Malhata, a spot destined to become one of the new Israeli air bases to replace those in Sinai due to be handed back to Egypt under the Camp David agreement.

Over 5,000 Beduin live on the land, some in black goat-skin tents and others in shacks. Renowned both for their fierce tribal rivalries and great hospitality, they have until recently kept their distance from other Israeli Arabs.

"We Beduin are not concerned about the Palestinian problem", explained Dr Yunis, a Bedu doctor, who is another prominent member of the Abu Rabia tribe. But he added that the policies of the present Israeli coalition government were alienating the Beduin by treating them as "second-class citizens".

The Negev Beduin are angry that they have been given much lower compensation than that offered to Jews being forced to evacuate settlements in Sinai. They are also resentful at attempts to force them into soulless new townships, rather than allow them sufficient alternative land to continue an agricultural existence.

Explaining the changing attitude among the desert tribesmen, Shaikh Abu Rabia said not long before his murder: "The Bedu is a patient man and is ready to compromise on everything. But he cannot forgive those who take his land."

Ousted Turkish MPs to be denied return to power

From Our Correspondent
Ankara, Jan 15

General Kenan Evren, the military head of state, announced today that a constitutional assembly would be formed in Turkey some time between "next August 30 and October 29".

On the first leg of a three-day tour of Turkey's southern provinces, General Evren told thousands of people gathered in the main squae of Konya, 180 miles south of Ankara, that politicians who were ousted by the September 12 Army coup would not be allowed "to once afgain control the destiny of Turkey".

These politicians, he said. had "soiled" the country, and the National Security Council [which he leads] were now "cleaning up".

The politicians, instead of saying "Thank God for their (the Security Council's) presence", were waiting impatiently and saying, "when are they going to go", General Evren said. "They soiled—we cleaned up. Now they want us to give them back the clean pot so that they can dirty it again."

This would not be allowed and no former party members would be included in the new constitutional assembly.

He also promised that communism, fascism, separatism and religious fanaticism would not be allowed in Turkey.

This was the second step in the plan for a return to democracy in Turkey announced by General Evren. Soon after he seized power last September in the bloodless coup—after nearly three years of economic instability and political anarchy—he promised the creation of a civilian government (set up nine days after the coup), a constitutional assembly, the promulgation of a new constitution, and general elections.

Today's much-awaited announcement does not, however, signify a return to democracy at this stage, as the security council will retain control over laws enacted by the constitutional assembly.

The council, which was, and will continue to be until the autumn, the only body empowered to enact laws, will then assume the powers "of a senate, as it were", according to General Evren. Council amendments to laws proposed by the constitutional assembly would be final.

In his wildly applauded speech, General Evren also underlined that he had chosen to make this announcement in Konya, one of the traditional centres of religious conservatism in Turkey.

It was there, early last September, groups of religious extremists demonstrated against the Turkish national anthem and displayed banners insulting the secular republic. The demonstration, senior generals said later, had been "one of the last straws" which precipitated the military coup.

UN staff hold day's hunger strike over jailed woman

From Laurie Nadel
New York, Jan 15

Some 30 staff members of the United Nations Secretariat held a day's hunger strike today in front of their cafeteria. Carrying placards reading "Free Alicja now" and "When one of us is in prison, none of us is free", they urged hundreds of staff members to sign a petition calling for the release of Miss Alicja Wesolowska, a secretary of the United Nations development programme, who is imprisoned in Warsaw.

Their action followed a report that Miss Wesolowska *has been refusing all food and* water for a week to protest at the manner in which she has been treated by the Polish authorities since her arrest on August 10, 1979, when she was visiting her family en route to a new posting in Ulan Bator, Mongolia.

After six months' interrogation, family members reported that she had lost a great deal of weight, some hair, and had temporarily suffered loss of movement in her legs. She was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment for espionage by a secret military tribunal last February, charged with "spying for a Nato power".

Miss Wesolowska, in a statement said to have been smuggled out of prison last week, complained that she had been detained without evidence, that gossip and legends had been presented against her, and that she had never admitted her guilt, although reports in the Polish press stated that she had.

On Monday, Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United *Nations* Secretary-General, discussed her case with Mr Dyonizy Bilinski, a Polish delegate to the United Nations. According to United Nations officials, Mr Bilinski said that the Poles intended to release her.

The Secretary-General expressed anger because the Polish authorities have been repeating this assertion for the 17 months of Miss Wesolowska's detention.

General strike hits Peru

Lima, Jan 15.—Peru's trade unions staged a 24-hour general strike today in protest at recent food and fuel price increases averaging 48 per cent.

Shops, *factories* and many banks and businesses closed in Lima and the provinces. Police in Lima used water cannon and tear gas to disperse strikers.—Reuter.

Power failure in Mexico City

Mexico City, Jan 15.—Millions of people were stranded in cars and public transport vehicles today as Mexico City was without electric power during the rush hour.

Unofficial sources blamed a power failure at Infiernillo, one of Mexico's main hydroelectric power plants for the blackout.—AP.

OVERSEAS

Little evidence to back up claim that 100 armed men landed in El Salvador to help guerrillas

From Christopher Werner
San Salvador, Jan 15

There seems to be little evidence to back up the announcement by the El Salvador authorities that 100 armed men landed by boat at an isolated beach near the Nicaraguan border.

The announcement, which was endorsed by the United States Ambassador to El Salvador, *coincided with a statement from Washington that military aid would be resumed to the Central American country.*

Government sources in El Salvador said the armed men arrived late on Tuesday afternoon and fought a battle through the early hours of Wednesday with troops taken from the garrison at the port of La Union.

However, by 11 am when journalists arrived, only about 300 heavily armed soldiers were to be seen—all looking exhausted. They claimed they had walked 30 miles in a search-and-destroy operation that followed the discovery of the landing.

There was a burnt-out Toyota, a pick-up truck in a ditch with *its windscreen shot out*, and just the odd gun shot, but nobody, no guerrillas, and no captured arms to be seen.

An officer said his troops had already buried the 52 guerrillas who had been killed. There were no prisoners *either*, "these people are fanatics, a fight to the last bullet", the officer said.

The remark is typical, but almost certainly false. If these 'invaders' had been foreigners, allegedly Nicaraguans, one might have expected the officer to keep the prisoners alive for propaganda purposes.

The lack of evidence suggests that if many of the rebels were killed in a four-hour battle, as the authorities claim, they were not proved to be foreigners.

This is not the first report of landings from Nicaragua. According to a senior naval commander in El Salvador, the Coastguard has had periodic information of small open boats landing in threes and fours throughout the year.

What is most important perhaps is that the United States Government has long claimed that "they now" that the Salvador guerrillas were being supplied with arms from abroad. *Money for weapons*: The weapons used by the guerrillas fighting in El Salvador are bought on the open market and are American, Belgian or Israeli, *the European representative* of the El Salvador opposition said in London today (our foreign staff writes).

Father Luis de Sebastián, a former vice-rector of the Roman Catholic University in San Salvador, said that there were no *Russian weapons in the hands of the guerrillas.*

The money for the weapons had come originally from ransoms paid for kidnappings. He mentioned the two British bankers, Mr Ian Massie and Mr Michael Chatterton, who were kidnapped from November, 1978, to July, 1979.

President of S Korea puts politics first

From Jacqueline Reditt
Seoul, Jan 15

South Korean politics entered a new phase today when President Chun Doo Hwan announced that he would contest next month's presidential election and lead the new government Democratic Justice Party (DJP).

The party nominated Mr Chun as its leader and presidential candidate at its inauguration ceremony held in the huge Chamsil gymnasium in Seoul.

The President told an audience of about 9,000 party members and invited guests: "I am now a politician, whether I like it or not, *because I have accepted the* party presidency and the party nomination as well".

Last April, Mr Chun told journalists that the South Korean military would never meddle in politics and was quoted as saying: "I have no interest in politics". But by September he had resigned from the military and been inaugurated as President. In October he promulgated his new constitution, dissolving Parliament and all former political parties.

A nation-wide purge over the past six months has eliminated most of the potential opposition. More than 500 former politicians have been banned from politics for eight years, some 57,000 people have been detained and many have been sent to "reeducation" camps as part of a scheme to combat corruption and crime.

Student demonstrations have been quickly and severely suppressed and the news media *have been streamlined and subjected* to greater government control.

President Chun said that order and stability had been restored, the presidential election would be held in February and a general election would be *brought forward to March or April.*

Doubts on timing of Bill over Canada

By Our Political Correspondent

In a written Parliamentary reply yesterday, Mrs Thatcher stated that between the end of August and January 10 she received 2,223 letters from Canadian citizens about the *patriation of the Canadian Constitution.*

Mr Francis Pym, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Leader of the House of Commons, is still in doubt about the timing of the request for endorsing legislation from the Canadian Parliament.

It it arrives in March, after the Finance Bill is on its way through Parliament, it may be too late to get the Canadian Bill through during the present session of Parliament.

Supreme Court throws out Bandaranaike appeal

From Our Correspondent
Colombo, Jan 15

Three judges of the Sri Lanka Supreme Court today dismissed with costs the applications of the former Prime Minister, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, and her nephew, Mr Felix Dias Bandaranaike, the former Finance Minister, for a writ of certiorari quashing the findings of the special presidential commission, which found Mrs Bandaranaike guilty on six charges of misuse of power and one of corruption. The commission recommended they should be deprived of their civic rights.

Parliament by special resolutions deprived Mrs Bandaranaike and her nephew of *their civic rights for seven* years and also expelled Mrs Bandaranaike from Parliament.

Mr Bandaranaike lost his seat in the 1977 general election. Mrs Bandaranaike and her nephew claimed in their applications last October that the commission's hearing and findings against them were against the principles of natural justice.

The three judges in their order today said that they had not gone into the allegations made by the petitioners against the commission and had therefore formed no view whether those allegations were well founded. Costs were fixed at 1,050 rupees (about £25).

FOREIGN REPORT

Another setback fuels criticism of American space shuttle

Tomorrow the first two critical tests will ascertain whether the much-vaunted space shuttle can be launched on March 17—three troubled years overdue—as the world's first reusable space exploration craft.

Yet the snags which have dogged the project since its inception in 1972 are continuing. Last week a simulated count-down had to be aborted seven minutes before "liftoff" because of a fault in the computer programme, made up of thousands of instructions to disengage ground support systems before firing.

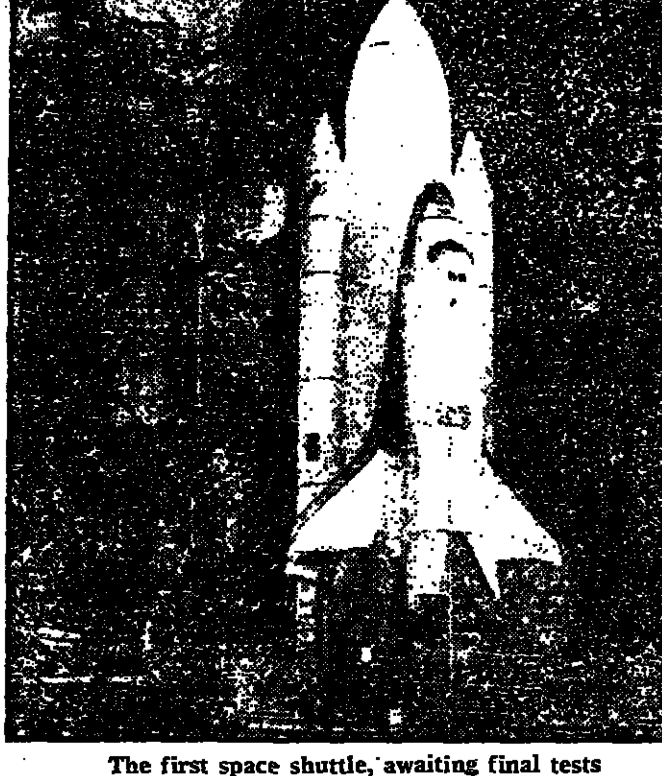
This is less serious than the radical problems experienced with the engines and heat shield and officials hope that it will not push back the launch date. It will, however, reinforce critics sceptical of the project's ultimate viability.

The remaining two tests are on the troublesome engines. Tomorrow's is at St Louis Bay, Missouri, where they are being modified. If that goes off without a hitch, the engines will be taken to Cape Canaveral for their final pre-launch trial next month.

In two tests last year, fire broke out in the engines. Since then, two more test runs have been successful, raising hopes that the fault has been cured.

The other main problem has been with the 30,761 tiles stuck to the exterior of the craft to prevent it burning up when it reenters the Earth's atmosphere. The tiles, on average 6in square, are formed from a lightweight silica fibre compound made from sand and able to resist heat of 2,300°F. In appearance, they resemble the polystyrene packing commonly used for delicate equipment.

After being cemented to the skin of the craft, some tiles were found prone to cracking under pressure. All of them had to be removed and reinforced by injection of a binding material 0.1in thick—a costly and time-consuming process.



The first space shuttle, awaiting final tests

If a tile were to become cracked or dislodged in flight, the craft and its crew would surely be lost. A system has been devised by which crew members can repair them in space, but there has been controversy because in the first flight, a proving run of 54 hours, this safety system will not be installed.

Mr Richard Young, a spokesman at the space centre, pointed out that the two pilots had not complained. They are Commander John Young, who has made four space flights including one to the Moon, and Commander Bob Crippen, a first-timer.

He explained the delays as "teething problems" in a revolutionary engineering concept and made the point that the programme had been less liberally funded then previous space exploits, notably the Apollo moon missions.

"If a problem developed with Apollo you threw money at it and it went away", he said. "Apollo was a great national goal. We were going to put a man on the Moon in the sixties, or bust, and we did it."

The space shuttle, by contrast, is the product of a less extravagant era. Whereas former spacecraft were oneshot vehicles, each of the four shuttles under construction is designed to make up to 100 journeys into space and back.

It is, in a sense, the reverse of normal technological advance: as though the throwaway plastic razor had been invented first, the type with changeable blades only later.

It has cost $8,800m (£3,700m) so far, compared to the Apollo programme's $25,000m. When functioning, it will be used to lift into space satellites and other hardware which would otherwise have needed expensive single-use rockets of their own.

Among the first bits of equipment it will carry is a giant space telescope which will greatly increase our knowledge of the universe.

The occasional privileged passenger with a professional interest in space will be able to go along for the ride. The shuttle will transport the European space laboratory and its accompanying scientists into the heavens.

"The shuttle is essentially a truck", Mr Young said. "Once functioning it should be no more romantic than an air liner."

The first of them, Columbia, the size of a small commercial jet, rests on its launching pad next to the Atlantic Ocean, embraced by its giant, cigar-shaped fuel tank and two pencil-thin rocket boosters. The tank will be ejected and will self-destruct when the craft goes into orbit, but the rocket casings will parachute back to Earth to be reused.

Its mission completed, the craft will reenter the Earth's atmosphere, and lower its wheels and land on an airstrip like a conventional aircraft. It will rely entirely on gravity—since its engines will have no fuel—landing like a giant glider.

Once launched, it will herald an age of sensibly-priced space journeys. The Sir Freddie Laker of the cosmos. But if its persistent teething pains delay it further, it could prove another of the recent blows to American self-esteem. The triumph of the first Moon-landing was more than 11 years ago now. Its aura already is fading in the memory.

Michael Leapman

Television viewers shown disgusting scenes inside sobering-up stations

Russia uses shock tactics to curb alcohol abuse

This is the third and concluding article from Michael Binyon, Our Moscow Correspondent on alcoholism in the Soviet Union. The earlier articles appeared on Tuesday, January 6 and on Saturday, January 10.

The early Bolsheviks seriously considered introducing prohibition in an effort to rid the young Soviet state of the scourge of drunkenness that was hindering their efforts to transform the country. They eventually discarded the idea as unenforceable and a diversion from more urgent priorities.

Many people engaged in the unrelenting fight against alcoholism now regret such a law was never enacted. But as the campaign against drunkenness intensifies, prohibition is again being seriously discussed in many Soviet cities.

The authorities have adopted three broad approaches in their urgent efforts to combat the country's most serious social problem — persuasion, punishment and decree.

Persuasion consists of a massive propaganda effort by the party, health workers, the press and local authorities to bring home to the population the damage caused by alcohol.

Much is deliberately shocking. Television shows films of the burgeoning number of homes for mentally retarded children that have had to be built to cope with the offspring of alcoholic parents. Disgusting scenes from the sobering-up stations deliberately depict drunks in almost bestial depravity.

The press gives details of the messy murders, the most grisly cases of assault, violence and cruelty caused by drunks. Men are frightened with the prospect of madness or impotence, women with the breakup of families and the corruption of children by drink.

Persuasion is also more subtle. Efforts are made to teach people to drink socially and in moderation. New cocktail lounges and restaurants have been opened with a light, attractive environment, serving light wines, beer and sandwiches, cocktails and soft drinks. Their rather fashionable exclusiveness is compared with sordid drinking in rebels entryways and the hangovers of the next morning.

The state has tried to boost the sale of beer and wine in an effort to cut consumption of vodka. More breweries have been built—several producing prestigious Czech beers and lagers. Shops are encouraged to stock the better Georgian and Armenian wines.

In a clever move capitalizing on the obsession of modern Soviet youth with Western products and fashions, the Russians have allowed Pepsi-Cola to set up bottling plants in the Soviet Union, open street kiosks and even put up the familiar brand-name signs. It has become chic to ask for Pepsi or Fanta, the orange drink sold in the Soviet Union by Coca-Cola.

Attempts are being made to get Russians to revive the old *custom of entertaining guests* with tea. The Ministry of Education has sent booklets to help teachers with temperance lectures.

Persuasion is backed with stiffer punishments for persistent drunkenness in an effort to reduce public tolerance of drunks. Ridicule has long been used to shame people into sobriety—drunks picked up by the police have cartoons drawn of their inebriation, which are then pinned up on street notice boards. Drunkards are warned at their places of work about their behaviour and criticized at party meetings and by workmates at informally constituted "Comrades' courts".

It is now suggested that the coveted vouchers to holiday resorts should not be given to drunkards. Heavy drinkers may also be expelled from the Komsomol (the Communist Youth League) and it has been recommended that job references include a statement of drinking habits.

The press has called for the fine on illegal home-distilling of vodka, now widely drunk in the countryside, to be increased to 1,000 roubles (£637).

There are many cases of restaurants and shops near schools and colleges selling drink to minors to increase their turnover. The Minister of Justice has said that this was a particularly dangerous offence, but last year the courts punished only about 700 people for enticing juveniles into drinking.

There have also been mounting calls for tougher action against drinking in factories, and hints that managers will be given a freer hand to sack drunkards without having to find them another job. In the Ukraine, several mines run daily checks for inebriation among the miners as they report for work.

Traffic police have also urged *tougher penalties for drunken driving.* In the past year a number of people have been shot for causing fatal accidents while drunk.

But it is only in recent years that a real attempt has been made to tackle alcoholism on a social and economic basis. The state has sponsored and published serious research into the causes, and has acted on several key recommendations with laws and decrees. One is the better provision of proper medical treatment for alcoholics.

Kiev is one city that has done much in preventive treatment. The anti-addiction treatment centre has set up a residential clinic in the countryside which can treat up to 700 people at a time. Alcoholics, all volunteers, are taught to relax without alcohol, and they meet former patients and their families. Special buses take them to factories each day where they are given well-defined work schedules or taught a trade.

There are also two outpatient centres in Kiev, including a hypnosis centre, where regular drunkards are invited to go for treatment. Courts can order compulsory attendance, and discipline is strict.

But Kiev has found that more effective treatment can be offered in special fee-paying wings of local hospitals where patients may attend themselves anonymously. In two years one such hospital has treated about 2,000 people. Similar centres have been established elsewhere.

Teetotal clubs have also been established with some success. Members take oaths, wear badges, meet weekly in comfortable club-houses, provide entertainment and organize summer outings and are able to bring guests.

The most drastic measure against drunkenness—prohibition—has already been tried in some Soviet cities, but most Russians agree that national prohibition is simply not possible, so ingrained is the drinking habit.

Bokassa shadow creates a dilemma

France last week reinforced its military presence in the Central African Republic in response to Libyan activities in neighbouring Chad. Marines were flown to Bangui to join about 800 French troops already stationed at an Army base 100 miles from the border with Chad. This was done to emphasize France's support for its African partners in the face of what is seen as the threat of Libyan interference. It also indicates the extent of French involvement with the Government of President David Dacko.

The former Emperor Bokassa of the Central African Republic was sentenced to death in absentia on December 24. The result of the week-long trial in Bangui was hardly a surprise.

A procession of state witnesses ranging from former ministers to palace cooks gave evidence of Mr Bokassa's financial expropriations from the state coffers, of his bizarre culinary habits, and of his pet man-eating crocodiles, to support the charges of murder, theft, embezzlement and cannibalism.

Details, even from those closest to him for many years, were vague and sparse and the witnesses showed a strong tendency to repudiate any personal involvement in the former emperor's activities. The verdict was never in doubt.

Mr Bokassa, however, remains unaffected by the trial or the verdict. After his overthrow by French troops in September, 1979, he was given refuge by President Houphouët-Boigny of Ivory Coast.

The lack of the leading character did not detract from interest in the trial which was broadcast by radio. As with the trials earlier in the year of former Bokassa henchmen, public interest has been high.

President Dacko has already been criticized, especially by the families of students who were killed in January and April, 1979, for not having either confirmed or carried out any of the death sentences handed down in the earlier trials.

There is a widespread feeling that the President has been deliberately dragging his heels because many of the leading political and government figures in the Central African Republic were deeply involved in the excesses of the Bokassa regime. The reticence of witnesses at the Bokassa trial, while understandable, will merely fuel the suspicions about several leading politicians.

President Dacko, however, is in a real dilemma. His main supporter and ally is France and the French Government has no desire for extra details about the Bokassa affair to emerge. French authorities have no wish to the have the friendship between President Giscard d'Estaing and Mr Bokassa, nor the question of diamond gifts, to be raised again before the forthcoming French presidential elections.

France, with its military presence in the Central African Republic and with technical experts and advisors in nearly all ministries, is in a good position to see that its wishes are observed. In addition, the republic is heavily dependent upon French financial assistance.

The budget deficit, likely to be at least 14 million CFA francs (about £26,000) this year, will be half covered by France. France pays for all communications links (including post and telephones) with the outside world. French companies have a virtual stranglehold on the business sector and France's subventions cover at least a quarter of the Government's monthly salaries bill.

President Dacko has announced a time-table for planned constitutional changes. There will be a referendum before the end of this month, presidential elections by the end of March, and legislative and municipal elections by June.

In addition, the President accepted, if unwillingly, that there should be a multi-party system. He had made it clear he wanted his own Democratic Union of Central Africa to be the single party for at least two or more years.

Within a week of the decision, two more political parties had been formed and there are at least two other groups likely to be ready to contest elections. The most important among possible opponents for President Dacko is Mr Henri Maidou, his former vice-president.

Mr Maidou was sacked by President Dacko in July last year because he publicly advocated a multi-party system. He has now set up his own Republican Progress Party and established close contacts with the trade unions.

In mid-November, the President appointed a new Prime Minister, Mr Jean-Pierre Lebouder, a 36-year-old technocrat, who is half-French. Mr Lebouder, formerly Minister of Planning, has made it clear that it will be necessary to cut back on inflated staffing policies in state companies and government ministries, and tighten up on government revenue collection.

It is estimated that at least half of the country's diamond production is slipping out illegally—some put the figure nearer to 80 per cent.

Once the Government starts its programmes, the unions can be expected to resist salary cuts or dismissals and Mr Henri Maidou hopes that he will benefit.

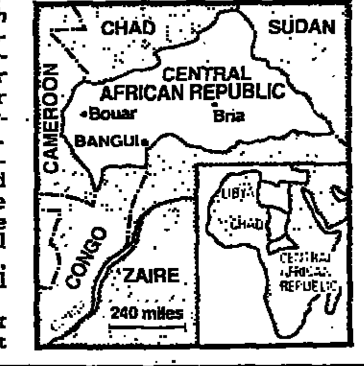
There are other potential presidential candidates. One is General Sylvestre Bangui, former Foreign Minister and deputy Prime Minister, sacked in November. He has founded his own party.

A more significant figure, if he is allowed to become a candidate, is Mr Ange Patasse, a former Prime Minister under Mr Bokassa, who has publicly called for France to withdraw from the Central African Republic. He was arrested for alleged plotting only weeks after Mr Dacko came to power in September, 1979. He has yet to be tried, but he was recently released from prison on grounds of ill health. The President has been making overtures to some of Mr Patasse's supporters, especially among the students.

Mr Maidou is bitterly disliked by the students because as Mr Bokassa's Prime Minister in 1979 he denied that any students had been killed at Ngaraba prison earlier in the year. This is still held against him, even though it was he who finally signed the request for French troops to end the Bokassa regime six months later.

President Dacko has not yet been able to generate much support for himself despite, or perhaps because of, his position as the Central African Republic's first President—he was ousted by Mr Bokassa in 1966.

Anything, that embarrassed his political rivals could well embarrass President Giscard d'Estaing and France, with only months to go before that presidential election. If that happened, President Dacko's hopes of election would be small. In the last resort, the winner in the Central African Republic will be whoever France supports and whoever causes fewest problems for France.



Susan Morgan

Shell denies sending oil from Nigeria to South Africa

From Karan Thapar
Lagos, Jan 15

Shell Nigeria has categorically denied reports that it is diverting Nigerian crude oil to South Africa. The Nigerian Government has a specific embargo against sales to South Africa on all its oil. In 1979 the assets of British Petroleum in Nigeria were nationalized, ostensibly because it was flouting this embargo.

Reports that the embargo was being broken by Shell allege that Nigerian oil is being routed to South Africa through the Dutch Antilles, in particular the Caribbean island of Curaçao, in chartered tankers flying the Liberian flag. These allegations were made by the Dutch anti-apartheid organization, Shipping Research Bureau.

"I can categorically state that not a drop of Shell's Nigerian oil has reached or is reaching South Africa directly or indirectly," Mr Peter Holmes, Shell's managing director, told me in Lagos today. "Nigeria's export licences are explicit as to which countries we are allowed to send the crude to, and we adhere to these restrictions to the letter. This adherence does, of course, include indirect as well as direct shipments".

The allegations that Nigerian oil is being sold to South Africa despite the specific embargo, were also reported on the BBC's *Focus on Africa* programme yesterday.

Officials at Shell said they were prepared to account for every barrel of Nigerian oil handled by them to prove that the allegations were false.

50 Chileans seek Swedish asylum

Santiago, Jan 15.—About 50 homeless workers occupying the Swedish Embassy in Santiago since yesterday asked for asylum last night after the Chilean Government failed to solve their housing problems.

Señor René Rojas, the *Foreign Minister, said the Government* had offered to send police to evict the workers but Swedish diplomats turned down the offer.—Reuter.

Earthquake jolts California

San José, California, Jan 15.—A moderate earthquake jolted a wide area of San Francisco Bay today, but caused no injuries or damage.

The University of California's seismographic station said the earthquake at 4.48 am registered 4.5 on the Richter scale. Its epicentre was about eight miles east-north-east of San José—the second moderate earthquake to shake the area in little more than a week.—UPI.

Fraser Government races to beat new senators

The political year started this week with the return of Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister, to Canberra for the first cabinet meeting of 1981.

Mr Fraser has been on holiday, fishing in Peterborough, a small village on the Victorian coast not far from his sheep property at Nareen. He has spent nearly six weeks, recovering from an attack of pneumonia.

A year ago, he was similarly afflicted by pneumonia and some medical people have expressed concern that, first, he should suffer from the illness twice in such a short time, and second, that he has both times taken so long to recover, although this could be put down to exhaustion.

For his part, Mr Fraser has refused to concede that his illness has been serious and has cheerfully allowed himself to be photographed in his fishing gear, looking suitably relaxed and content.

His immediate concern in Canberra will be the implementation of controversial programmes before June 30, when the Australian Democrats, who are potentially hostile to the Government, will assume the balance of power in the Senate with five newly elected members.

But even without this pressure, Mr Fraser will have to face by-elections, a remodelling of the National Health scheme—yet again—a new two-airline policy, the forthcoming retirement of the Chief Justice, controversy over uranium exports, new wage formulas implemented recently, the ever-present complexities of Indian Ocean defence and adapting to a new American Administration.

The Democrats, under the leadership of Mr Don Chipp, a former Liberal, have already made it clear that they intend to do everything they can to stop the Government "steam-rolling" sensitive legislation through the Upper House.

But the Government still has several months before the new senators take their seats and government strategists are already building a bank of legislation to be pushed through in the autumn session, which begins late in February. The Government is also faced with a backlog of legislation from the last session.

Internationally, Mr Fraser and his new Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Tony Street, have a busy year ahead. Mr Fraser is hoping for an early visit to Washington for talks with the new Administration, mainly concerning trade sanctions against the Soviet Union and Iran, and increased military involvement in the Indian Ocean. It is believed that President-elect Reagan is inclined towards strengthening America's role in the Indian Ocean.

Australia has already offered Darwin as a staging base for surveillance B52 flights and the offer is understood to have been accepted.

Talks on bilateral trade, particularly in primary products such as beef, will also be held in Washington. In Europe, the EEC is expected to make a decision soon on Australian beef imports. Australia has threatened trade retaliations against Europe if it does not ease its tough protectionist stand.

Back at home, Mr Fraser has to announce the dates for three, possibly four, by-elections and there are persistent reports that Sir Garfield Barwick, the Chief Justice, who is 79, is to announce his retirement.

The recent decision by the Arbitration Commission to scrap wage indexation is expected to prove a headache for the Government with possible union disruption if it does not support an equitable method of wage structuring. Also, the unions have already strongly condemned the Government's recent decision to sell uranium to France.

The national airline Qantas is fearful that the Government has been softening it up for a takeover. The two internal airlines, one now controlled by Mr Rupert Murdoch, are seeking to expand their horizons.

A Government-commissioned report on hospital efficiency suggests that the Government will have to do something about reorganizing health services.

Overall, there is expected to be more action this year than last.

Douglas Aiton

SPORT

Tennis

Mayer is in seventh heaven after his first victory over McEnroe

New York, Jan 15.—Gene Mayer caused the first upset of the $400,000 Masters championships yesterday when he beat the United States open champion, John McEnroe, 3—6, 7—6, 6—2 on the opening evening. It was 24-year-old Mayer's first win over McEnroe, who is 21, in seven tournament meetings. Now McEnroe will have to beat the defending champion, Bjorn Borg, tomorrow night to qualify for Saturday's semi-final round.

Earlier, Ivan Lendl, of Czechoslovakia, and Jimmy Connors won their first matches in the round-robin competition involving the top eight finishers in last year's grand prix standings. Lendl, aged 24, routed Harold Solomon, 6—3, 6—1, and Connors defeated Guillermo Vilas, of Argentina, 6—2, 4—6, 6—0.

Mayer is a New Yorker like McEnroe and he won five grand prix tournaments last year to rise to fifth in the world standings. But he was given little chance against McEnroe, who previously had lost only one set to Mayer. McEnroe had also shown fine form in the Challenge of Champions tournament in Chicago last week, when he crushed Connors in the final, 6—2, 6—4, 6—1.

"This is by far my greatest victory ever", Mayer said. "I've often though I could beat someone like McEnroe, but to actually do so is something. I began to believe in victory when I saw I was beginning to return his service well."

McEnroe won the first set comfortably, but then his service and net game became sloppy; he appeared to underestimate the quality of his opponent.

A turning point of the match was in the tie-break of the second set. McEnroe led 1—0 but missed an easy return, had two double faults and trailed 2—6. He recovered to 5—6 before losing his service and the set.

McEnroe appeared to be favouring his left foot and he opened the third and decisive set by double-faulting three times. Mayer broke serve again in the fifth game when McEnroe had two more double faults. Mayer plays Clerc tomorrow.



Gene Mayer : return of service was crucial.

McEnroe declined to appear at a post-match press conference to talk about his apparent injury, but an official said he was suffering from an intestinal disorder.

Connors, who is trying for his second Masters title, beat Vilas in the opening period. Although both men produced some scintillating shots for the 15,637 Madison Square Garden crowd, Vilas was unable to sustain the momentum he generated in squaring the match at one set all. He lost his concentration after falling behind 0—2 in the third set and then squandered two breakpoints in the third game.

Lendl and Connors both clinched their places in the semi-final round with their second victories. Lendl, now number six in the world, defeated Vilas 7—5, 6—4 while Connors blasted his compatriot Solomon 6—2, 6—4.

Both matches were in the four-man red group of the competition and Connors and Lendl will meet tomorrow in a match to decide which of them wins the group. The winner meets the second player in the blue group while the loser plays the blue group winner in Saturday's semi-final round.

Mottram puts Britain back on terms

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

Britain and Sweden were level after the two singles matches in their King's Cup tie in Cardiff last night. Anders Jarryd, almost four years the younger, beat Andrew Jarrett 6—3, 6—4 in an hour and 25 minutes to put Sweden ahead. But in the second match Christopher Mottram came from behind in both sets to beat Per Hjertquist 6—4, 7—5 in an hour and 40 minutes.

The King's Cup competition is a European indoor team championship for men. It is played in two divisions, with promotion and relegation at the end of the season. Britain and Sweden both won their first ties of the new competition last weekend and it was always likely that they would have a tough match at the Welsh National Sports Centre.

Jarryd is supposed to be the most powerful of Swedish players except for Bjorn Borg. He certainly had a considerable advantage in weight of shot over Jarrett last evening. The important thing was that when he scented an opening, the Swede had it in him to go for the kind of big winner that was not within Jarrett's repertoire.

For much of the match Jarrett tended to go to the net without sufficient justification. Once there, he tended to hit tame first volleys and was consequently either passed or forced into error. He had plenty of bright ideas but could not apply them effectively. By comparison with the Swede he looked something of a lightweight. "Andrew did not have enough guns" Paul Hutchings, Britain's team manager, said.

The second match maintained a much higher class. Hjertquit who lacks Mottram's experience, played irresistibly well in streaks but missed the most important chances that came his way. In short, Mottram was the better player during the most crucial points and the most crucial games.

Hjertquist was serving for a 5—2 lead in both sets (in the second he also served for the set). But he could seize none of these chances, for which he had worked so hard and so well. Double-faults tended to creep into his game when he could least afford them. Mottram, of course, gave him nothing.

Ijt took Mottram four games to to settle down but after that he gradually assumed a tactical authority that was questioned only by Hjertquist's bursts of violent activity. Mottram took four consecutive games at the end of each set—and that tells its own story about each man's response to the most critical phases of the match.

OTHER RESULTS: Czechoslovakia 3, Finland 0; Norway 0, France 3; Bulgaria 5, Belgium 0.

Football

Burns may join Francis in attack

Kenny Burns may resume his old attacking partnership with Trevor Francis at Stoke City tomorrow if Larry Lloyd, the Nottingham Forest centre half recovers from the hamstring injury that kept him out of last Saturday's match at Ipswich.

Burns played alongside Francis up front in their Birmingham City days and the Forest management are tempted to depend on them re-establishing the profitable understanding they developed at St Andrews to contribute towards their rebuilding programme at the City ground. Speculation that Burns may be employed as a striker has grown since he scored both goals for Forest's reserves in a 2—2 draw against Sheffield United on Tuesday.

Ron Fenton, the former Notts County manager, is taking over as Forest's first team trainer. He succeeds 65-year-old Jimmy Gordon, who was with Brian Clough and his assistant Peter Taylor at Derby County before joining them at Forest. Mr Gordon will keep "an eye" on training for various matches. Fenton has been training the Forest second team.

Mathers, the Ipswich midfield player who injured a foot in the 5—1 win over Birmingham on Tuesday, missed training yesterday but is certain to play at Everton. The league leaders are certain to recall their England striker Gates who has just completed a two match suspension. He will take over from O'Callaghan.

Everton, who already have their full back John Gidman doubtful with a calf strain, also learnt yesterday that Latchford, their former England striker, who has been out for two months with hamstring trouble, had suffered a recurrence of the injury in training.

The setback ends any hope Latchford may have entertained of facing Liverpool in the FA Cup tomorrow week. Liverpool, however, may encounter professionalism of the standards they themselves have achieved if the Manchester City manager John Bond gets his wish when the clubs meet in the second leg of the League Cup semi-final round on February 10.

City, who lost Wednesday's first leg at Maine Road to Ray Kennedy's 81st minute goal, have not beaten Liverpool in front of the Kop for 25 years but Mr Bond insists: "I'm not throwing the towel in. If we can score an early goal at Liverpool it's wide open, and I believe I have enough guns to upset Liverpool's organizational ability to make it difficult for them."

City remain convinced that the Great Yarmouth referee Alf Grey robbed them of a perfectly good goal when he ruled out a Reeves header. "Liverpool got away with a little bit of murder—but good luck to them," said Mr Bond, who tackled the referee about his controversial decision in the third minute.

There is conjecture as to whether Tottenham Hotspur will include Ardiles for the home game with Arsenal. On his arrival at Heathrow yesterday from Uruguay where he had been appearing for Argentina in the Gold Cup tournament, Ardiles said he was ready to play: "I have no injuries and although I am a little tired at the moment I expect to be fully fit for the Arsenal game", he said.

Pat Welton Tottenham's assistant manager was far less certain however that Ardiles, who had extended his leave in order to attend a wedding would be selected.

The Tottenham manager Keith Burkinshaw will wait until he has seen Ardiles, however, before deciding whether to recall him to a side which has won two games and drawn three during his absence. His fellow Argentine, Villa, is definitely out of the game, with a knee injury. The full back Hughton is doubtful but Yorath has recovered from a knee injury.

Arsenal will have Rix and Sunderland back after injury, but Talbot and O'Leary are not expected to play.

The Coventry City striker Ferguson is also doubtful. Since his cartilage operation in January he has played only two first team matches, and he may be ruled out of the local derby against Aston Villa because of an ankle injury which had kept him out of training for the past two days. Hateley, the man he displaced last Saturday, stands by for the result of Ferguson's fitness test.

Today's fixtures

THIRD DIVISION: Fulham v Barnsley (7.30); Newport County v Rotherham United (7.15). FOURTH DIVISION: Port Vale v [illegible] (7.30); Tranmere v [illegible] (7.30). [illegible] Glamorgan Wanderers (7.0); Bath v [illegible]; London [illegible]; Llanelli [illegible]; v Nottingham [illegible]; Police v [illegible] (7.0); [illegible]

Why the League will not dance the tango

The Football League are to be taken to the European Commission in Brussels by Adidas, the sports equipment manufacturers, who claim that they have contravened the "restrictive practices" agreement of the Treaty of Rome.

The League have refused to allow clubs to use the firm's "tango" ball. Adidas launched the ball in the 1978 World Cup in Argentina. It was used at the Olympic Games and in the European championship in Italy last summer.

The tango has been banned because it is black and white. The League allow only footballs that have their approval. Adidas say that is a restraint of trade and competition imposed against products from another EEC country. France, where the ball is produced.

Jim Smith, manager of Birmingham City said: "We want to use the tango ball because we find it to be the best." Gordon Lee, of Everton, said: "The tango football has been well accepted by our players and we have used it in all home FA Cup competitions. It is extremely important that clubs playing in European competitions acquaint themselves with this ball."

Brian Clough, the Nottingham Forest manager supports the Adidas stand. "We have had extensive experience of this ball in all competitions," he said. "Having won the European Cup twice and the Super Cup once using the Adidas white ball we'd be delighted to use it every other week at the City Ground. I only hope the League restriction is lifted."

Adidas point out that last year they sold 300,000 tango balls throughout the world and that the English market would be worth £750,000 a year.

Graham Kelly, the League secretary, said his body had submitted their observations to the European Commission. "We feel we are entitled to restrict the designs of balls used in League games," he said. "We do not want a proliferation of designs.

"There is no question of discrimination against Adidas. A number of our clubs use the Adidas white ball and we have offered them the opportunity to manufacture the official League red-and-white ball under licence. So far they have not accepted this offer."

Parlane transfer hits a snag

A delay in the proposed £200,000 transfer of the Leeds United striker Derek Parlane has pulled Norwich City's hopes of having the former Scottish international in their side to receive Liverpool tomorrow.

The Norwich manager Ken Brown said: "There is no hurry now because it is too late for Parlane to play on Saturday and he cannot play against Manchester City next week either, because he is cup tied. The whole thing has been left in the air and we will just wait and see what develops at their end." Mr Brown wanted Parlane to play against Liverpool, because his outstanding striker Justin Fashanu, is one of four Norwich players, who are doubtful through injury.

Alliance may be threatened

The Alliance Premier League is threatening to sever its links with the Southern League in an argument over which competition should be at the top of the non-league football hierarchy. The Alliance decided yesterday not to relegate anyone to the Southern at the end of the season, and not to accept a "promoted" club from the Southern unless the row is settled.

The dispute is over a new competition, to be formed in two years' time by a merger of the Southern and Isthmian Leagues. They say the new organization should be regarded as the most important outside the Football League. The Alliance, now in its second season, are determined to keep their own pre-eminent position.

At present the Northern Premier and Southern Leagues act as "feeders" to the Alliance, and the Alliance champions are nominated for a place in the Football League's fourth division. The new organization want to be able to put their own champions forward for a place in the Football League.

Alliance and Northern Premier representatives met yesterday. The Southern were invited but did not attend. It was agreed that promotion and relegation between the Northern Premier and Alliance should continue, but that links with the Southern should end, unless the Southern agree that the Alliance should remain the senior competition.

Hockey

Australians prove to have a hard centre

From Sydney Friskin
Karachi, Jan 15
Australia 3 West Germany 1

Australia, with one day to go, put the third Champion's Trophy tournament, sponsored by Pakistan International Airlines, in an interesting position by beating West Germany here today. The result, while diminishing West Germany's chances, helped The Netherlands who head the table with six points, although they still have to beat England tomorrow to make sure of the trophy.

If The Netherlands draw with England, and Australia beat Spain, The Netherlands and Australia will be level on points. The winners will be decided on goal difference and then on goal average if the difference is the same, but these and other mathematical complications which could still arise could have been avoided had the rules not been changed. Under the old system the result of the match between the teams was the deciding factor and The Netherlands have beaten Australia 7—5.

But Australia played so well today against the Germans that their position, should they finish on top, will not be grudged. They played with better pattern, a higher work rate and more determination, tactically proving the advantage of the hard centre from the wings. All three goals were scored in this fashion. The motivation was provided mainly by Trevor Smith who had a fine game at centre half and confirming this, Don MacWaters, the coach, said: "I am very pleased. Except for a couple of slow patches in both periods we played a fast, flowing game, which is our style."

West Germany made a tactical blunder which they tried too late to correct. By using four midfield men they blocked the approaches to goal but early creative ability up front suffered from a lack of support, both strikers, Krull and Blocher, having been outnumbered when challenged. More strength was put into the attack after the interval but Australia had, by then, taken a 2—0 lead.

A short corner was the basis of Australia's first goal. The German goalkeeper's save off Irvine was followed by a half-hearted clearance and a strong centre from the left by Leece was deflected into goal by Batch. A long corner brought Australia their second goal four minutes later and again a poor clearance proved costly. This time the ball was hit back from the line by Walsh to Leece who scored from close range, but Peter, the German captain, argued with umpire Vijayanathan, maintaining that Walsh had used a hand on the ball before passing to Leece.

Australia virtually made sure of winning with their third goal in the eighth minute of the second half, which came from one of their best moves. Smith set the forwards in high gear and pushed out to Thornton on the right. The goalkeeper tried unsuccessfully to cut off the centre and, after a brief tussle near goal, Batch scored his second goal.

West Germany hit back with Peter converting a short corner and their drooping spirits were revived, more so when Blocher displayed a masterpiece of stickwork and control five minutes later. He was brought down on the point of entering the circle but an appeal for a short corner was denied by Mr Vijayanathan who ordered a free hit from outside the 25-yard line. Germany forced one more short corner from which Reid saved well and after that Australia were in no more danger.

AUSTRALIA: G. Reid, J. Irvine, C. Davies, D. Bell, T. Smith, G. Boyce, T. Walsh, C. Batch, W. Thornton, R. Charlesworth (captain), T. Leece.

WEST GERMANY: T. Frank, M. Peter, G. Bachmann, T. Gurust, R. Lange, U. Haenel, E. Schmidt, P. Trump, R. Krull, S. Blocher, H. Dopp.

Umpires: G. Vijayanathan (Malaysia) and C. Todd (England).

Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Netherlands	4	2	2	0	15	12	6
Australia	4	2	1	0	14	13	5
W Germany	4	1	2	1	12	9	4
Pakistan	4	2	0	2	11	9	4
Spain	4	1	1	2	8	15	3
England	4	0	2	2	6	8	2

Rugby Union

Davies fit but still Wales suffer a hiccup

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

The Welsh stand-off half, Gareth Davies, who has had a slight knee strain, was passed fit yesterday to play against England in the first international of the season, in Cardiff tomorrow. He was given medical clearance at Bridgend and then participated in the Welsh training without any apparent discomfort, although he was not subjected to a really rigorous test.

The No 8, Squire, suffered no ill effects from a recent hamstring twinge, and the only Welsh casualty, if that be the word, during their training was the young Newport wing, Ackerman who missed the later stages of it. The chairman of Welsh selectors, Keith Rowlands, played down questions about Ackerman's departure with the deadest of dead bats: "A minor hiccup", he said.

When asked if he could enlighten the media with a little more detail, he was not to be drawn into embellishment: "A minor hiccup" he reiterated, "nothing more". Nor did he add much to the general wisdom when there was an inquiry about his views on Saturday's match, by observing that it was a big occasion so far as Wales were concerned, that it always had been, and that the players were very much looking forward to it.

Mr Rowlands was asked whether, in the light of the sorry encounter between the two sides at Twickenham last year, he intended to say anything on this subject to his players. To this he replied: "We are looking at this year's game. We don't want to look back."

The England captain, Beaumont, was a good deal more forthcoming at the end of a sharp training period at the South Glamorgan Institute in Cardiff. He predicted an England victory, though he was not prepared to say by how much: "The team is in a really buoyant mood, and we all feel we're taking up where we left off in Edinburgh in March after the last leg in the grand slam."

Beaumont also gave a pledge that England, given the right conditions, would play 15-man rugby: "The players have got the brains to assess situations, and the skills to exploit them." This approach was confirmed by the coach, Mike Davis, who said that the side was well enough balanced to be able to attack through the forwards or through the backs.

Davis added that he was pleased that England had abandoned recent custom and arrived in Wales 48 hours before the match, instead of crossing the border on the day itself: "I think when England did this in recent years they found the atmosphere too suddenly intense", he said. "Now the players have time to absorb it."

Everyone in the England party is reported fit, and "Budge" Rogers, the chairman of their selectors, declared himself highly satisfied with their training yesterday even though it was conducted in unpleasant conditions on a slushy pitch and in a chill and difficult wind. Last evening the party were spectators at the King's Cup tie in Cardiff between Britain and Sweden.

At the end of what looked, in some respects, to be a perfunctory Welsh training period, the captain, Fenwick, observed, with tongue in cheek, that perhaps it made a nice change for them to start as underdogs. He conceded that England were the only country in the championship with a more or less settled side "and that must be an advantage". The Welsh coach, John Lloyd, said he thought the odds were 50-50 at the start. "After that", he added, "it will be up to the lads. I thought the side was well prepared against New Zealand, but perhaps it wasn't tuned mentally for the occasion at that stage of the season. Now they're raring to go". No-one will doubt that.

Half backs who made success whole for King's

By Gordon Allan
King's College 22 Middlesex 0

King's College were much too good for Middlesex in the first round of the Hospitals' Cup competition at Wimbledon yesterday. They won by a goal, a try, and four penalty goals to nothing, and go on to play the holders, St Mary's, at Enfield, on January 29.

As in previous years, the half backs, Griffiths and Padwick, had a big hand, and foot, in King's success. Griffiths was the little general at scrum half, until he went off in the second half with slight concussion, and Padwick the man who kicked the goals. This time, he landed four penalties out of seven attempts, plus a conversion. Between them, he and Griffiths supported to the full the able work of King's forwards.

Middlesex were in trouble in the front row, conceding several heels against the head, and hardly put one movement together that did not end in a dropped pass. There were a couple of runs by Jocelyn Ellis on the right wing, but that was their only return for 80 minutes labour. They were not the team they were last year, when they made one of their rare appearances in the second round, and gave Westminster, the eventual runners-up, a difficult match.

Padwick kicked three penalties in the first half, and converted a smart try by Griffiths. Skyrme-Jones, the No 8, picked up the ball at a scrummage in the Middlesex 22 and Griffiths ran round the blind side to ground it near the posts. Griffiths had another try disallowed in the second half, and was concussed in the process. King's were noticeably less workmanlike without his presence—either that or they had lost interest somewhat by then.

Padwick kicked his fourth penalty in the second half, bending the ball in from the right after he himself had been obstructed, and Skyrme-Jones made a try for Edmonds, again with a pick-up at a scrummage near the line. St Mary's will be another story, and King's are none too confident of a happy ending.

KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL: R. Atkinson; S. Clark, R. Balal, D. Haines, S. Lowe (rep R. Harrison); H. Padwick, I. Griffiths (rep P. Wigmore); S. Campbell, P. Briggs, C. Wardle, T. Glynn, R. Bradley, S. Davies, S. Skyrme-Jones, R. Edmonds.

MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL: J. Delfosse; J. Ellis, D. Bowen, R. Hunter, C. Davies; S. Payne, P. Miller, C. Ellis, A. Galloway, R. Roper, M. Jeziersji, C. Bevan, J. Fisher, J. Eason, K. Joy.

Referee: A. Evans (London).



Over my shoulder goes one care : Skyrme-Jones goes flying but feeds Griffiths (right) for the try

Table tennis

Douglas atones for earlier shortcomings

By Richard Streeton

The newly acquired character and resilience of England's table tennis team were shown when they beat Czechoslovakia 4—3 in the European League at Belper last night after losing the opening two singles. In a grapping and fluctuating match, sponsored by Auto Windscreens (Chesterfield) Ltd, it was a success that kept England in the hunt for their first league championship.

When the match began with defeats for Desmond Douglas and John Hilton, it seemed that Czechoslovakia were going to progress to victory with unexpected ease against known form. Jill Hammersley, however, took the women's singles, England won both doubles, and then Douglas atoned for earlier shortcomings by beating Josef Dvoracek 21—11, 21—19 in the firsth, of the reverse singles to give England a winning lead.

Douglas was unrecognizable as the man who earlier had been trounced by Milan Orlowski with a devastating emphasis that made nonsense of Douglas's No 3 European ranking. Douglas has often been a slow starter but it was almost painful to watch the self-induced errors he made.

Douglas was still not at his best as he and Paul Day won the doubles in straight sets against Jindrich Pansky, who was unexpectedly partnered by Dvoracek. In the mixed doubles which followed, Douglas, playing with Linda Jarvis, at last found his true form. The Czechoslovaks, Pansky and Marie Hrachova, won the first set and fought hard all the way in the decider.

By now, however, Douglas's backhand and the deceptive changes of tactic were working with complete efficiency.

Hilton's early and rare defeat by Dvoracek, who lost to the Englishman in the European championship final, was a tense affair with Hilton guilty of unnecessary mistakes at crucial moments. Hilton led 8—3 and later 12—5 in the first set but allowed Dvoracek to catch up at 14—1.

RESULTS: England 4, Czechoslovakia 3 English names first: D. Douglas lost to M. Orlowski 15—21, 10—21; J. Hilton lost to J. Dvoracek 19—21, 15—21; Mrs J. Hammersley beat Mrs A. Pelicanova 21—14, 21—13; Douglas P. Day beat Dvoracek and Pansky 21—17, 21—18; Douglas and Mrs L. Jarvis beat Pansky and Miss M. Hrachova 18—21, 21—13, 21—19; Douglas beat Dvoracek 21—11, 21—18. Other results: Hungary 4, France 3; West Germany 0, Yugoslavia 7; Soviet Union 3, Sweden 4.

Speed skating

Dutch threat to the Russians

Heerenveen, Jan 15.—Russian skaters look firm favourites for honours at the two-day women's European championships which open in this northern Dutch town on Saturday. The world champion, Natalia Petruseva, who won the 1,000 metres event at the Lake Placid Olympic games last year heads the four-strong Russian team.

But Russian dominance could be broken by the reigning world sprint champion, Karin Enke (East Germany), Norway's Bjorn Eva Jensen and the Dutch girl, Alie Boorsma, who won the national title last weekend. The 21-year-old Miss Boorsma from Drachten near here, will draw a big crowd to the championships.—Reuter.

Yachting

Tabarly wins award

Eric Tabarly, one of the most famous racing yachtsmen in the world, was presented with Yachtsman of the Year award at the Boat Show, Earls Court yesterday, John Nicholls writes. The award was made by the Yachting Journalists' Association for Tabarly's achievement in establishing a new transatlantic sailing record of just over 10 days. The previous record was held by a schooner called Atlantic in the heyday of sail.

Tabarly followed another Frenchman, Alain Catherineau, as yachtsman of the year. Catherineau was selected for his rescuing of the crew from a sinking yacht in the last Fastnet Race. Tabarly's next venture will be the Observer double-handed transatlantic race which starts from Plymouth in June. He will be one of the favourites to establish a new record for the east-west crossing, which, because of the prevailing winds in the Atlantic, is higher than the crossing in the opposite direction.

Rackets

A staggering singles match

By Roy McKelvie

Randall Crawley and Paul Nicholls, the under-24 champion, played themselves to a standstill in the amateur rackets singles championship at Queen's Club yesterday. Crawley won and will meet his doubles partner, William Boone, in one semi-final round match tomorrow. In the other, John Prenn, the holder, will also meet his doubles partner, Charles Hue Williams who warded off a strong challenge from Jonathan Leslie.

Crawley beat Nicholls 17—14, 15—11, 14—17, 15—8. The pace was fast, the rallies long and the exciting recoveries of lost causes were such that at the end of the third game, both men were not just breathless, but staggering. In the middle of that game eight successive blank hands were made as if they were just playing by instinct and hope.

Crawley had match point at 13—12 in the third game, but Nicholls beat him with a smart backhand return down the wall and, helped by two aces, won the next five points. Crawley won because he was the better server and more balanced player, purer of stroke. But Nicholls had his chances in the first three games, only to fluff many of them.

Hue Williams beat the tall, athletic Leslie 6—15, 15—9, 15—9, 17—14, surviving a point in the fourth game that would have taken them into a final. The winner's experience was one answer. As happened against Mark Nicholls on Wednesday, he varied his service and Leslie had difficulty in reading it. Leslie's recent lack of match play in this class—he has been at the top of the squash ladder for some years—was another. But now he is back in rackets.

Skiing

Stenmark goes downhill

Kitzbühel, Jan 15.—Ingemar Stenmark will compete in a World Cup downhill race for the first time in his career on the tough Hahnenkamm track here on Saturday. Three times winner of the cup, the Swede has contested only slaloms and giant slaloms because he believed that racing in downhills also would affect his mastery of these technically exacting disciplines.

Downhills call mainly for speed and courage; slalom racing demands poise, balance and rhythm as competitors weave through tightly-placed gates. Stenmark's Italian coach, Herman Nogler, said the Swede's aim in racing in the downhill was to collect valuable World Cup points in a combination event. This is a "paper" contest based on the combined results of the Hahnenkamm race and a slalom in Oberstaufen last Tuesday, in which Stenmark finished second.

Although Stenmark has no prospect of being among the leaders on Saturday, he has a good chance of collecting combination points if he finishes the gruelling 3,270-metre ourse without mishap. Mr Nogler said Stenmark's main objective was to overtake Phil Mahre, of the United States, a slalom specialist who races in downhills. Mahre ranks second in the overall World Cup standings with 105 points; Stenmark is third on 95.

A snowstorm forced the postponement of todays training for the two women's World Cup downhills at Crans-Montana on Sunday and Monday. The race organizers hope that two training periods can be held tomorrow.—Reuter and Agence France-Presse.

For the record

Basketball

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION: Philadelphia 76ers 110, New Jersey Nets 105; Boston Celtics 120, Cleveland Cavaliers 113; Indiana Pacers 101, Detroit Pistons 99; Washington Bullets 114, Los Angeles Lakers 104; San Antonio Spurs 116, New York Knicks 105; Portland Trail Blazers 110, Kansas City Kings 91; Houston Rockets 109, Chicago Bulls 105; Phoenix Suns 128, Denver Nuggets 102; San Diego Clippers 106, Atlanta Hawks 85; Utah Jazz 110, Golden State Warriors 107.

EUROPEAN CUP-WINNERS' CUP: Quarter-final round, Group A, third series: Parker Leiden (Netherlands) 90, Efes Pilsen (Turkey) 86.

RONCHETTI CUP: Quarter-final round, Group A, third series: Spartacus Antwerp (Belgium) 66, Monting Zagreb (Yugoslavia) 85. Group C, third series: Mineur Pernik (Bulgaria) 77, Tungsram Budapest (Hungary) 71.

EUROPEAN CUP: Third series semi-final round: Maccabi Tel Aviv 97, Nashua Den Bosch (Netherlands) 90; Real Madrid 104, TSKA Moscow 80.

WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS' CUP: Third series group quarter-finals round: Politehnica Bucharest 82, DSF Budapest 72; Levski Spartak (Bulgaria) 67, Red Star Belgrade 70; Sparta Prague 71, Delta Lloyd Amsterdam 49.

Football

FRIENDLY MATCH: Strasbourg 3, Luxembourg 0.

Skiing

SAPPORO, Japan: International jumping competition: 1, O. Bremseth (Norway), 99.0 and 108.0 metres, 234.8 points; 2, M. Akimoto (Japan), 98.0 and 106m, 225.6 pts; 3, J. Toermaene (Finland), 96.0 and 104.5m, 224.7pts.

Cricket

AGRA: One-day women's match: India 131, England 132 for 4. England won by six wickets.

Golf

Lead shared by Gilder and Lietzke

Palm Springs, California, Jan 15.—Bruce Lietzke and Bob Gilder shared the lead after the first round in the Bob Hope desert golf classic yesterday. They finished on 65, one stroke ahead of the field.

With temperatures soaring into the mid-70s and without a trace of a breeze, Gilder achieved his score on the tough Tamarski course, whereas Lietzke was at Bermuda Dunes. These are two of the four courses used for the first four rounds of the five-day, 90-hole event.

Ray Floyd (at La Quinta), Jerry Pate (at Bermuda Dunes) and Jesse Snead were one stroke behind, just clear of a big group, which included Lee Trevino and Lee Elder, on 67. Jack Nicklaus opened his 1981 season with a 68 at La Quinta. He did not go over par but failed to get a birdie on any of the par-five holes.

The defending champion, Craig Stadler, had a 69 at La Quinta. His amateur team comprised Bob Hope, Gerald Ford and Tip O'Neill.

FIRST ROUND (Americans unless stated): 65: B. Lietzke, B. Gilder; 66: J. C. Snead, R. Floyd, J. Pate; 67: L. Trevino, C. Halberg, L. Elder, M. Lye, L. Wadkins, D. Sanders, D. Edwards, R. Clampett, K. Fergus; 68: G. Burns, B. Crenshaw, P. Jacobsen, D. Towell, J. Nicklaus, V. Heafner, J. Haas. British score: 73: Peter Oosterhuis.—Agence France-Presse.

Athletics

Boycott threat as Ethiopia snub Ireland

Fears that African countries will boycott Irish sport are growing after the news that Ethiopia have withdrawn their team from the international cross-country event at Grange, County Cork on Sunday week. The decision was reportedly taken on the advice of the Ethiopian government because of the planned Irish rugby tour to South Africa in May.

Ethiopia had promised to send Miruts Yifter and three other world-ranked runners.

Venissa Head, of Bristol, who won the shot last weekend at Cosford with a United Kingdom indoor record of 17.05 metres, is in the British team to meet West Germany at Dortmund on January 30.

Also selected are Earl Tulloch (sprint), Mark Holtom (hurdles), Aston Moore (triple jump), Colin Reitz (1,500 metres) and Verona Elder (400 metres). The rest of the team will be chosen after the Cosford meeting on January 23 and 24.

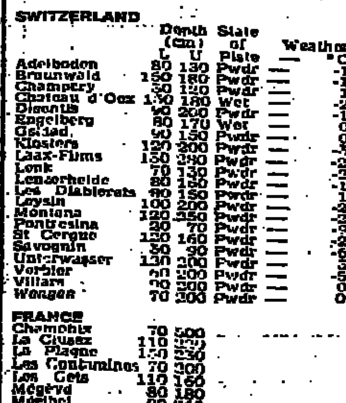
Ice hockey

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Pittsburgh Penguins 6, St Louis Blues 3; Los Angeles Kings 5, Hartford Whalers 4; Edmonton Oilers 7, Toronto Maple Leafs 4; Minnesota North Stars 1, Buffalo Sabres 1.

Latest snow reports from Europe

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Piste	Conditions Off piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm)	°C
Andermatt	150	300	Fair	Varied	Closed	Snowing	-6
One run open, strong winds							
Arosa	105	153	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-8
Top lifts closed by winds							
Grendelwald	80	250	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-2
Perfect skiing to village							
Isola 2000	30	70	Fair	Varied	Fair	Fine	7
Good skiing on piste							
Mürren	160	290	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-6
Very deep snow, no visibility							
St Anton	95	410	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-5
High winds, most lifts closed							
Tignes	95	215	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-2
New snowfall all day							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following reports have been received from other sources:



SWITZERLAND

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	State of Piste	Weather	°C
Adelboden	80	130	Pwdr	—	-1
Braunwald	150	180	Pwdr	—	-1
Champery	50	120	Pwdr	—	1
Chateau d'Oex	130	180	Wet	—	-2
Disentis	90	200	Pwdr	—	-1
Engelberg	80	170	Wet	—	0
Gstaad	90	150	Pwdr	—	0
Klosters	120	200	Pwdr	—	-3
Laax-Flims	150	280	Pwdr	—	-2
Lenk	70	130	Pwdr	—	-3
Lenzerheide	80	150	Pwdr	—	-1
Les Diablerets	90	150	Pwdr	—	1
Leysin	100	200	Pwdr	—	-2
Montana	120	350	Pwdr	—	-3
Pontresina	30	70	Pwdr	—	-5
St Cergue	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Savognin	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Unterwasser	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Verbier	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Villars	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Wengen	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

FRANCE

	L	U	State of Piste	Weather	°C
Chamonix	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
La Clusaz	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
La Plagne	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Les Contamines	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Les Gets	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Megeve	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Meribel	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Montgenevre	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Morzine	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pra-Loup	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
St Gervais	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]



	L	U	State of Piste	Weather	°C
Superdévoluy	45	45			
Val d'Isère	110	160			
GERMANY					
Berchtesgaden	50	90	Pwdr	—	-4
Garmisch	70	90	Wet	—	0
Hindelang	70	140	Wet	—	-3
Kleinwalsertal	140	270	Wet	—	-4
Mittenwald	70	130	Old	—	-1
Oberammergau	50	110	Wet	—	0
Oberstaufen	140	140	Wet	—	-1
Oberstdorf	100	260	Pwdr	—	-3

SCOTLAND: Cairngorms: Main runs: a few runs complete but narrow, all others broken. New snow with icy patches. Lower slopes, limited nursery areas. New snow. Vertical runs, 1,200 feet. Access roads, slight snow. Snow level, 1,000 feet. [illegible]

SPORT

Cricket

Indians achieve respectability but Australia assured of place in final

From Dilip Rao
Sydney, Jan 15

Australia beat India by 27 runs here today, their sixth win and one which they would have expected to achieve more easily after putting up a total of 242. It guaranteed them an appearance in the best-of-five final of the one-day Benson and Hedges World Series Cup competition, and it will not matter now if they lose their one remaining fixture, against New Zealand, also at the Sydney Cricket Ground, on Tuesday.

For their part, New Zealand will need to win that match only if they lose to India on Sunday and do so conceding runs at great speed. Before today's match, India lagged a fifth of a run behind their rivals.

Today, India's batting performed quite respectably. The embarrassment on this occasion was their bowling, which was not equal to the task of containing Australia on a pitch of very high quality. In fact, it was the same one on which Australia and New Zealand played the cliff-hanger of two days ago.

India seemed to be in with a splendid chance of limiting the Australian score when they toppled Greg Chappell for only two, with Yashpal Sharma taking a splendid tumbling catch at extra cover. More often than not, the early exit of Chappell triggers off panic in the Australian ranks, but this time the innings was kept on course by Allan Border, who made a chanceless 85, off 133 balls.

The Indian batting touched its highest mark while Roger Binny and Dilip Vengsarkar were putting on 57 runs for the second wicket at a shade above the asking rate. Their association began in only the third over when Gavaskar was given out lbw to Lillee. Gavaskar looked aggrieved at the verdict and pointedly stared at the inside edge of his bat as he walked away.


Border: a chanceless 85.

Binny who, both as batsman and bowler has found himself desperately out of his class on this tour, today batted with confidence and put all the weight of a strapping Anglo-Indian frame behind his drives.

Vengsarkar, too, looked a better batsman for giving free rein to his shots. Having faced 74 balls, he made 52 which, after Border's 85, was the highest score of the match, while Binny fell lbw in trying to glance Graf. Vengsarkar, at a time when runs were beginning to get harder to obtain, went in chase of a widish ball from Hogg and was caught one-handed by Marsh.

While Viswanath has not done justice to himself on this tour, he has played brilliantly for many scores of medium-size. But today he could not get going and eventually drove at a ball from Greg Chappell and was not quite suited for the purpose. The following batsmen all played with character, but the Australian bowling was quite relentless, except during a loose first spell by Pascoe, there were no easy runs to be had.

AUSTRALIA

G. M. Wood, c Binny, b Patil	26
A. R. Border, c Kirti, b Doshi	85
*G. S. Chappell, c Y. Sharma, b Patil	2
K. J. Hughes, c Kapil Dev, b Binny	30
K. D. Walters, c Ghavri	38
T. M. Chappell, c Vengsarkar, b Kapil Dev	14
†R. W. Marsh, c Reddy, b Ghavri	12
G. F. Graf, c Kirti, b Kapil Dev	8
D. K. Lillee not out	4
R. M. Hogg not out	1
Extras (b 1, l-b 16, n-b 2)	19
Total (8 wkts, 50 overs)	242

L. S. Pascoe did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—48, 2—58, 3—136, 4—181, 5—216, 6—230, 7—235, 8—240.

BOWLING: Kapil Dev 10—1—46—2, Ghavri 10—0—[illegible]—2, Binny 10—0—45—1, Patil 10—2—[illegible]—3, Doshi 10—0—59—1.

INDIA

*S. M. Gavaskar, lbw b Lillee	1
R. Binny, lbw b Graf	34
D. B. Vengsarkar, c Marsh, b Hogg	52
G. R. Viswanath, c and b G. Chappell	27
Yashpal Sharma, c and b G. Chappell	25
S. M. Patil, b Lillee	27
Kapil Dev, c Marsh, b Lillee	20
Kirti Azad, b Lillee	10
K. D. Ghavri not out	11
†B. Reddy not out	8
Extras (l-b 10, n-b 1)	11
Total (8 wkts, 50 overs)	215

D. R. Doshi did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—2, 2—59, 3—78, 4—112, 5—155, 6—161, 7—196, 8—197.

BOWLING: Lillee 10—1—32—4, Hogg 10—1—[illegible]—1, Pascoe 10—0—63—0, Graf 10—2—30—1, G. Chappell 10—0—38—2.

Result: Australia won by 27 runs.

Standings:

	P	W	L	Pts
Australia	9	6	3	12
New Zealand	8	4	4	8
India	9	3	6	6

(New Zealand have two games to play, Australia and India one each. The top two qualify for the finals.)

Reduced tour party

Sydney, Jan 15.—The Australian Cricket Board decided today to send a 16-man team to England later this year. The number has been cut from 17 to 16 because of the slightly reduced tour and the concentration of limited-over matches.—Agence France-Presse.

Badminton

Sponsorship of Indian and Chinese tours

By Richard Streeton

Fears that the forthcoming tours of England by Indian and Chinese badminton teams would lose money have been dispelled by sponsorship from Crest Hotels worth more than £21,000. Crest will also help the game at lower levels by providing free meeting rooms and reduced accommodation rates for tournaments such as county championships.

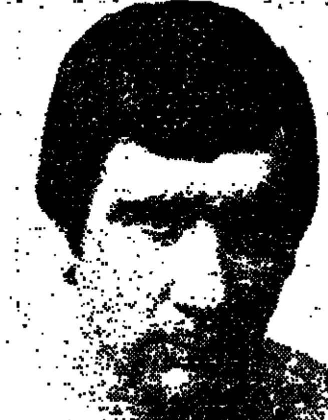
The Indian national team play five matches in Crawley, Plymouth, Stoke-on-Trent, Huddersfield and Gloucester between February 10 and 22. Crest will also sponsor a men's triangular match between England, Sweden and India at Preston on February 25 and 26, when the prize money will total £5,500, and five of the six matches being played by the Chinese in May.

Badminton, like several similar sports, is having a difficult time in the present recession. A smaller version of what used to be the Laing grand prix had to be abandoned this winter when no sponsor could be found and the cutback by many councils on caretaker costs and heating has affected the game in local halls. The daily cost of a visiting team of 14 like the Indians can be between £300 and £400 and the Crest deal has saved the Badminton Association of England a heavy loss. A spokesman for the hotel group said they saw the new agreement as the start of what they hoped would be a long partnership with badminton.

National Cup sellout

The English Basketball Association announced yesterday that all tickets for the ASDA National Cup, between Doncaster and Crystal Palace on Friday January 23 at Coventry Sports Centre, had been sold.

Boxing



Buchanan (left) and Aird: fortifying the over-30s

The 'old hands' receive their chance of a title

Billy Aird, the long-serving heavyweight from Liverpool, is being offered another chance of winning the British title, which John L. Gardner relinquished to concentrate on Europe. An application from a promoter in the Midlands, for the contest between Aird and Gordon Ferris at Bingley Hall, Birmingham, on March 30, to be recognized for the vacant title, has been approved by the British Boxing Board of Control.

Their approval is conditional on receipt of signed contracts; the contest must not take place any later than the stated date; and the winner has to defend the title by June 30.

To save time the board has recognized a final eliminator between Neville Meade (Swansea) and Terry Mintus (Leeds) at Ebbw Vale on February 26. The winner of that contest will go forward to box for the title. Aird, who will be 35 by the time the contest takes place, was stopped by Gardner in five rounds on his previous attempt to win the British title.

Ken Buchanan, the former world lightweight champion, who is engaged in a comeback, also returns to the championship picture. His contest in Birmingham on January 26 against Steve Early has been recognized as a final eliminator for the British light-welterweight championship, and the winner meets Clinton McKenzie the holder. Buchanan is even older than Aird and will be 36 in June.

Colin Jones, the Welsh holder of the British welterweight title, has been ordered to defend against Kirkland Laing, from whom he won it last year, by April 30. The board has also ordered a final eliminator for the bantamweight championship, between Dave Smith (Eltham) and Dave Larmour (Belfast). The winner meets John Feeney (Hartlepool), for the vacant championship. This contest is to take place by March 18.

Two eliminators have been ordered in the featherweight division where Pat Cowdell is champion. They are to take place by April 30 and are between Tony Penprase (Plymouth) and Sammy Simms (Wales), and Jimmy Flint (London) and Gerry O'Neill, the Scottish champion, respectively.

The return bout for the British lightweight title, between Ray Cattouse and Dave McCabe (Scotland), will be staged at the Albany Hotel, Glasgow, by the St Andrews Sporting Club.

Ghost team to emerge after a decade in the dark

From Eric Marsden
Johannesburg, Jan 15

They might be the finest cricket team in the world, but they will have nobody to play against. For the first time in 10 years—when the apartheid protest forced the republic into isolation—there is to be a South African Test team, though there is little prospect of their being invited abroad or of their being host to a visiting side.

The decision to select an official Springbok 11 was taken by the South African Cricket Union, who said they had nominated a three-man panel to do this on March 21 after a challenge match between the Datsun Shield winners and the rest of South Africa, which marks the end of the season here.

Most of the probable national team will be on view during this limited over match, though there could be surprises. S.A.C.U. officials refused to comment on whether there was a possibility of a tour by an international team at the end of the season. The odds seem against it and, because no official match has been arranged for the ghost side, the players will not be entitled to wear Springbok blazers.

Only three members of the 1970 South African team, who were regarded as unofficial world champions, are still playing first-class cricket—Eddie Barlow, Mike Procter and Graeme Pollock. Another member, Barry Richards, is contemplating a comeback for Natal.

Barlow, the Western Province captain, is 40 and is having an unhappy season, so he is unlikely to be selected in spite of his prodigious feats for South Africa. The other three would be automatic choices if Richards returns in time, with Procter a likely captain in succession to Ali Bacher, who retired three years ago and is Transvaal's leading cricket administrator.

Pollock, at 36, is still South Africa's batting superstar and is heading the Currie Cup averages for the third year running. He played in 23 Test matches between 1963 and 1970, scoring seven centuries, but has since stayed at home, preferring a business career to offers from England and Australia.

Most of the other potential Springboks are familiar to English county crowds. The leading all-rounder is the Nottinghamshire captain, Clive Rice, who would have had a South African cap in 1971 had not apartheid put an end to the planned tour and started a decade of isolation.

Peter Kirsten (Derbyshire) and Alan Lamb (Northamptonshire), both prominent in last year's English averages, seem batting certainties, while the leading bowlers include Vintcent van der Bijl, who played a major role in Middlesex's successes, and Garth le Roux (Sussex).

South Africa have also developed several lesser-known all-rounders like Alan Kourie, the Transvaal spin bowler and middle-order batsman; Robbie Armitage, Eastern Province third batsman and change bowler, and Natal's wicketkeeper-batsman, Tich Smith.

Howarth fears a repeat of Geelong incident

Bundaberg, Australia, Jan 15.—Geoff Howarth, the New Zealand captain today warned Queensland Country batsmen to wear a protective helmet when facing his fast bowlers. Howarth was speaking on the opening day of a two-day match here when the New Zealanders scored 281 for four declared in their first innings and the local side were 80 for eight in reply at the close. He said "We don't want a repeat of the Geelong incident."

Howarth was referring to the touring team's match last week against Geelong and Districts in which the local opening batsman, Peter Oxlade, was struck three times by balls from Richard Hadlee and went to hospital for observation. "Country players just don't realize the pace of bowlers such as Hadlee."

Hadlee was the only bowler of six used by Howarth today not to obtain a wicket. Bruce Edgar, top scorer for the New Zealanders, was out four short of his first century of the tour. Paul McEwan scored 81 and all-rounder Jeremy Coney 46.

SCORES: New Zealanders, 281 for 4 dec (B. A. Edgar 96, P. McEwan 81); Queensland Country XI, 80 for 8.—Reuter.

DACCA: Bangladesh 143 and 198 and 198 for 6; MCC 290 for 5 dec. Match drawn.

Holder's new team

Vanburn Holder, the former West Indies fast medium bowler, released by Worcestershire last year, will play for the Birmingham League club, West Bromwich Dartmouth, next summer.

Book reviews

Singing the green, green grass of home

Last year was one of the better ones for sporting books. Towards the end of it four more appeared that maintained the trend for nostalgia and impressive scholarship, as opposed to the ghosted "How I did it" theme. They deal with rugby, badminton and cricket and in addition to an historical backcloth, they share the virtue of being informative as well as entertaining.

Rugby's contribution in recent months has been enriched by the Welsh centenary season. It was farsighted of the Welsh Rugby Union to insist that the first 100 years of their official history should record more than just the famous matches, the great players and the obligatory administrative story. The brief for the book laid down that the rugby should be put in perspective against the principality's industrial, religious and social development.

Two young professional historians, David Smith and Gareth Williams, were entrusted with the work and the outcome, Fields of Praise (University of Wales Press, £12.95) is a rugby book that is the best of its sort hitherto attempted. High praise, perhaps, but there is no doubt that these 505 pages will remain the definitive work for future generations.

Like all such histories, some sections will have a wider appeal than others. It is a book to linger over rather than to read straight off. The authors have handled the early days specially well, the growing pains in connection with selections, tactics and amateurism, all still topical in different ways today. They have shown equal judgment and perception with some brilliant cameos of the leading players, both modern day heroes and those from the past. What might be called the non-rugby passages are skilfully interwoven into the developing rugby story; where apt, moments of humour are not spurned. A truly memorable book that will be enjoyed wherever rugby is played.

Considering that badminton was established in both England and India before modern day lawn tennis, the first full-length history of the game has been delayed overlong. Bernard Adams has remedied this with The Badminton Story (BBC Publications, £6.75 hardback, £4.50 paperback). Mr Adams was the producer of the recent television series "Better Badminton". It was his researches into the game's past for the programme that led him to write this book.

Like other historians, Mr Adams cannot really solve the mystery whether badminton began indoors at Badminton House or outdoors in India. He has, however collated all the evidence available about the early days and then followed the game's development around the world right up to the first open, fully professional tournament at the Albert Hall in September, 1979. The personalities of famous past players are splendidly captured and the book is fully sourced and illustrated.

Those who enjoyed Gerald Howat's earlier cricket books on Constantine and the game at village level will know the proficiency to expect from Cricketer Militant: The Life of Jack Parsons (North Moreton Press, Didcot, £5). Once again Mr Howat, in what is clearly a labour of love, has turned his ability as an historian and writer to wonderful effect with a rewarding subject.

Canon Parsons, who is 91 next May, has led a varied existence of a sort uncommon in our own specialist era. His forceful driving as a batsman for Warwickshire, together with his changes of status between amateur and professional, have become legendary in the game. As a soldier he experienced Gallipoli and was with Allenby's army in the First World War; he knew India in the days of the Raj; in later life as a churchman he earned both respect and love from his parishioners. This is far more than a cricket book and Mr Howat has conveyed with great success both the character of the man and the flavour of his times.

An enormous amount of hard work and application must have been necessary by Benny Green as he edited Wisden Anthology 1900-1940 (Queen Anne Press, £20). This is the second volume of the three planned; the last dealing with the years up to 1980 is due next autumn. The selection of items from the almanacks to be included in the 1,200 pages this time from such a rich period in cricket history must have been a formidable task. As in the first volume, Mr Green contributes introductory essays to each era.

Richard Streeton

Racing

Fire Drill's win is a tonic for News King

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

Most of the early skirmishing between punter and bookmaker on the outcome of the Schweppes Gold Trophy on February 14 took place on Mount Harvard yesterday. After the form book worms had burned the midnight oil thumbing the pages and sifting through the weights, a hard core of opinion came to the conclusion that the handicapper might have erred in giving Mount Harvard as little as 10 stone. Mount Harvard has been set to meet Heighlin, Starfen, Gay George, Sea Image and Killer Shark on vastly better terms than before and that the exact weight differences range from 27lb to 11lb for distances varying from four to six lengths.

Those who participated in the gamble on Mount Harvard which forced Hills to cut his price from 25-1 to 14-1 will hope that their punt will not come unstuck the way one did on his stable companion, Bealnablath, at Wincanton yesterday. Bealnablath started favourite at 9-4 to beat a field of 16 that included six who had been entered for the Schweppes. He beat all of them except Fire Drill and finished 15 lengths ahead of the third horse.

Success for Fire Drill did not come out of turn because in his last two races he had been narrowly beaten, at Kempton and at Newbury, by another Schweppes entry, News King, whose chance he certainly advertised yesterday. Whether Fire Drill will also be in the lineup for the big hurdle at Newbury will depend on whether his stable companion, Celtic Ryde, takes part.

The Oteley Hurdle at Sandown Park the week before is Celtic Ryde's objective in the near future but if for some reason he has to miss that race the Schweppes would be a logical alternative. Their trainer, Peter Cundell, said yesterday that Fire Drill would only deputize if Celtic Ryde was absent. As for Mount Harvard, who is now sharing favouritism with Applalto, he is likely to run before Newbury at either Kempton Park or Haydock Park next Saturday. If he runs well in his warm-up race his odds will be even shorter on the day.

No one could have been more delighted to win the Lillo Lumb Challenge Cup yesterday than Tim Forster, who saddled not only the winner, Flagstaff, but also the third, Mr Snowman. Afterwards, he recounted to me the day that Miss Lumb asked him to take over her horses after her previous trainer, Tom Yates, had died: "Miss Lumb said to me 'You can have them for a year and if at the end of it I don't get on with you or you with me we'll part company on the best of terms'."

In fact they never had an argument and the happy and successful partnership was to continue for 13 years until Miss Lumb died five years ago. Yesterday was the second time in three years that her trainer had won her race.

Dramatist duly won the John Bull Steeplechase but he was not particularly impressive beating Hutton Lad. Still, it should have done his confidence a world of good and I will be surprised if his trainer, Fulke Walwyn, does not venture further with him before long. When settled in behind he ought to be capable of staying three miles.

Highway, the colt who caused more than just a ripple in the Triumph Hurdle market a fortnight ago when he won so impressively at Newbury, is to make his second appearance under National Hunt rules at Ascot today in the first division of the Silver Doctor Novices Hurdle. Bob Davies could scarcely hold Highway at Newbury and they won by eight lengths. On the debit side, his jumping left a lot to be desired and he may not always get away with such a flippant attitude. The other division looks a suitable opportunity for High Old Time to make amends for finishing only second in his last two races.

Mac Vidi, who is without a doubt one of the most popular horses in training, will be trying to win the Green Highlander Steeplechase for the second season in succession at the ripe old age of 16. In this instance I prefer Approaching, who was far from disgraced in his first race of the season at Newbury where he finished fourth in the Mandarin Steeplechase.

Watching Accelerate win his first race of the season the same afternoon, few could have realized that he had been off the course for two years suffering from heart trouble. There was nothing suspect about his performance and I hope to see him confirm that promise by winning the Thunder and Lightning Steeplechase.

There will be an inspection of the course at Newcastle early this morning to determine whether racing is possible there this afternoon. If the programme goes ahead Night Nurse should make up for falling at Kempton on Boxing Day by winning the valuable Pintail Steeplechase.

STATE OF GOING (official): Newcastle: Heavy. Precautionary inspection 7.30 am. Ascot: Good to soft. Tomorrow: Market Rasen: Soft.

Results at Wincanton yesterday

1.0 (1.2) BLACKMORE VALE CHASE (Handicap: £1,317: 2m)
EASY PICKENS, b g, by Manacle—Innovation (J. Staddon), 7-10-2 K. Page (12-1) 1
Regents Garden P. Richards (14-1) 2
Salad ...... P. Scudamore (4-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 68p; places, 12p, 36p, 22p. Dual F: £3.87. CSF: £15.56. J. Thorne, at Bridgwater. 10l, 1½l. Richmeto 2-1 fav, Money Talks (9-2) 4th. 8 ran. NR: Kabena.

1.30 (1.32) JAMBOREE HURDLE (Handicap: £1,599: 2m)
FIRE DRILL, ch g, by Firestreak—Free and Easy (A. House), 6-9-9 ...... R. Strange (11-4) 1
Bealnablath S. Smith Eccles (9-4 fav) 2
French Charisma B. Smart (11-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 39; places, 30p, 18p, 33p, 45p. Dual F: 63p. CSF: £1.02. P. Cundell, at Compton. 2l, 15l. French Lane (33-1) 4th. 17 ran.

2.0 (2.1) JOHN BULL CHASE (£2,317: 2m 6f)
DRAMATIST, b g, by David Jack—Doone Valley (L. Thwaites), 10-12-0 .. W. Smith (4-9 fav) 1
Hutton Lad .... M. Floyd (9-1) 2
Raffi Nelson S. Smith Eccles (11-4) 3
TOTE: Win, 11p. Dual F: 16p. CSF: 47p. F. Walwyn, at Lambourn. 2½l, 20l. Tristram Shandy (50-1) 4th. 4 ran.

2.30 (2.32) LILLO LUMB (Handicap: £1,407: 3m 1f)
FLAGSTAFF, b g, by Big Timber—Doll Fair (Mrs G. Lugg), 9-10-0 W. Webber (14-1) 1
Joint Venture R. Champion (11-2) 2
Mr Snowman J. Francome (10-1) 3
TOTE: Win, £1.33; places, 65p, 13p, 23p. Dual F: £10.15. CSF: £8.64. T. Forster, at Wantage. ½l, 30l. Bryan Boru 15-8 fav. Princely Call (5-1) 4th. 9 ran.

3.0 (3.7) NOVICES' HURDLE (Div I: £671: 2m)
VIRGIN SOLDIER, b g, by Queens Hussar—Saintly Miss (Mrs W. Brown), 5-11-3 S. May (13-2) 1
Port Askaig .. J. Francome (12-1) 2
Bright Oasis .. A. Webber (33-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 95p; places, 21p, 34p, £1.81. Dual F: £5.00. CSF: £8.10. J. Old, at Salisbury. ½l, 1½l. Karlinsky 5-4 fav. Cill Dara Mist (10-1 4th). 23 ran.

3.30 (3.38) NOVICES' HURDLE (Div II: £671: 2m)
AUTUMN SUN, ch c, by Amber Rama—Rainswept (J. Tarrant), 4-10-3 ...... C. Brown (16-1) 1
Murray Close P. Scudamore (16-1) 2
Bristol Blue .. R. Atkins (25-1) 3
TOTE: Win, £1.85; places, 69p, 53p, 54p. Dual F: £12.33. CSF: £24.64. D. Elsworth, at Colerne. 8l, 2l. Romany Nightshade 9-4 fav. Farmer Fred (20-1) 4th. 23 ran. JACKPOT: not won. Pool of £454.00 carried forward to Ascot today. PLACEPOT: £240.00.

Southwell

1.15: 1, Political Pop (13-8 fav); 2, Spartan Major (11-2); 3, Raybale (20-1). 13 ran. NR: Go Wimpy. The Tista.

1.45: 1, Son of Dee (7-1); 2, Wedded Bliss (7-2); 3, Ghosting (10-1). 12 ran. Winking Fields, 3-1 fav.

2.15: 1, Turk (7-2); 2, Sea Lane (4-1); 3, Cheers (evens fav).

2.45: 1, Hopton (12-1); 2, Sir Bountiful (9-2, jt fav); 3, Gay Twenties (11-2). 14 ran.

3.15: 1, Repique (7-2); 2, Plastic Cup (7-4, fav); 3, Hazy Isle (4-1). 10 ran.

3.45: 1, Miss Couture (9-2); 2, North (4-6, fav); 3, Black Earl (13-1). 11 ran. NR: Teslwood Park, White's Umbrella.

Ascot programme

1.0 SILVER DOCTOR HURDLE (Div I: Novices: £1,850: 2m)

4	f04r1	Bishops Bow (D), R. Turnell, 5-11-9	A. Turnell
5		Funny Spring, L. Cumani, 6-11-7	Mr M. Rocca
6	00-0	Grand Beaver, J. Crowley, 7-11-7	R. O'Leary
8		Musso, F. Winter, 5-11-5	J. Francome
10	b22-	Piggy Malone, T. Marshall, 5-11-5	M. Bastard 4
12	13p0	Davidgalaxy Affair (D), F. Yardley, 4-11-0	W. Morris 4
13	1	Highway, D. Morley, 4-10-0	B. R. Davies
14	2411	Great Developer (D), D. Nicholson, 4-10-11	P. Scudamore
16	4p1	Sandhaven, D. Grissell, 4-10-8	R. Linley
17	p	Another Venture, R. Atkins, 4-10-4	R. Atkins
18	03	Grandiose, D. Elsworth, 4-10-4	C. Brown
19		Jades Double, Mrs B. Waring, 4-10-4	C. Candy

9-4 Highway, 7-2 Great Developer, 9-2 Grandiose, 6-1 Bishop's Bow, 8-1 Davidgalaxy Affair, 12-1 Musso, Sandhaven, 14-1 Funny Spring, 16-1 others.

1.35 BUCKTAIL CHASE (Handicap: £1,860: 2m)

201	2130/p1	Grand Trianon (D), T. Gillam, 9-12-3	Miss H. Winn 7
203	4-0f0au	Springbow (D), R. Turnell, 8-11-8	A. Holder 7
204	00p0u2	Sergeant Can (D), Miss S. Morris, 9-11-3	M. Chilton 7
205	f30/32p-	Prince Kumar VI (D), F. Yardley, 9-11-2	W. Morris
206	20-0004	Wild Chorus, M. Wilesmith, 11-10-11	J. Darlington 7
207	20f00-0	Pewter Spear, D. McCain, 8-10-10	W. Beardwood 7
208	030222	Mr Moke (B, D), C. Small, 11-10-9	M. Richards 7
209	000-240	Letterellan, C. Balding, 7-10-9	M. Coyle
210	00-00	Authorative, N. Mitchell, 6-10-8	C. Mellfatrick 7
213	000u43	Mouldy Old Dough (C), F. Muggeridge, 12-10-7	T. Muggeridge 7
214	pp0440	Jackadandy (B, CD), A. Moore, 10-10-7	C. Mann

2-1 Grand Trianon, 4-1 Sergeant Can, Mr Moke, 6-1 Letterellan, Wild Chorus, 8-1 Mouldy Old Dough, 14-1 others.

2.5 HAIRY MARY HURDLE (Handicap: £3,017: 3m)

302	1102-00	Ross Du Vin (D), J. Gifford, 10-11-13	C. Kinane
303	0200-00	Padski (D), R. Hollinshead, 8-10-12	C. Astbury
304	14-011	Cisto, A. Goodwill, 6-10-11	S. Smith Eccles
305	413-000	Willie Wumpkins (D), Mrs T. Pilkington, 13-10-10	Mr A. J. Wilson
307	031/313-	Lord Gulliver (D), Mrs J. Pitman, 8-10-7	B. Smart
309	3-41023	Upton Bishop, Mrs N. Smith, 7-10-1	A. Webb
311	2130-00	Gemini Miss (D), D. Scott, 9-10-0	B. de Haan 4
312	1103/03	Coffee Boy, C. Thornton, 9-10-0	D. Atkins
315	3/00-000	Oaklawn, H. O'Neill, 6-10-0	G. Gracey 4
316	0000/03-	Popal's Mandate, F. Yardley, 7-10-0	W. Morris 4
317	000000	C'Est Afrique, J. Long, 10-10-0	C. Mann 7

9-4 Cisto, 7-2 Coffee Boy, 9-2 Ross du Vin, 6-1 Upton Bishop, 8-1 Willie Wumpkins, 10-1 Padski, 12-1 Lord Gulliver, 16-1 others.

2.35 THUNDER AND LIGHTNING CHASE (Novices: £3,629: 2m)

402	00000/1	Accelerate, N. Henderson, 7-11-8	S. Smith Eccles
403	101-10u	Army Lad (D), F. Rimell, 7-11-4	S. Morshead
404	0100/3-0	Benny's Boy, A. Moore, 8-11-4	G. Moore
405	21104/f	Double Bluff, F. Winter, 8-11-4	J. Francome
406	u21014	Gun-Metal (D), B. Basson, 6-11-4	R. Rowell
407	000000	Looking Down, J. Crowley, 10-11-4	R. O'Leary
408	000-012	Solmulla Boy, Mrs H. Houlbrooke, 6-11-4	Mr T. Houlbrooke

15-8 Accelerate, 100-30 Army Lad, 9-2 Solmulla Boy, 8-1 Double Bluff, Gun Metal, 10-1 Benny's Boy, 14-1 Looking Down.

3.5 GREEN HIGHLANDER CHASE (Handicap: £4,417: 3m)

501	2/224f-4	Approaching (D), J. Gifford, 10-11-10	R. Champion
502	120021	Martinstown (D), Mrs M. Easton, 9-11-4	Mr M. Bakers 7
503	323-04f	Mac Vidi (CD), Miss P. Neal, 16-11-1	W. Smith
504	211-432	Mender (D), R. Armytage, 10-10-13	J. Francome
505	3310-02	Master Spy (CD), T. Forster, 12-10-12	—
506	11121-0	Royal Exile (D), F. Winter, 12-10-4	R. de Haan 4
508	000000	Tenecoon, F. Smith, 13-10-0	P. Warner

9-4 Approaching, 7-2 Mender, 9-2 Martinstown, 6-1 Mac Vidi, 8-1 Master Spy, 10-1 Royal Exile, 14-1 Tenecoon.

3.40 SILVER DOCTOR HURDLE (Div II: Novices: £1,847: 2m)

603	f0040-f	Christmas Visit, J. Wright, 7-11-7	P. Scudamore
605		Gale Prelense, D. Jackson, 8-11-7	Steve Knight
607		Morning Match, P. Tory, 6-11-7	Mr M. Felton
609	00	Grecian Sovereign, A. Hide, 5-11-5	J. Barlow
610	4222	High Old Time, S. Mellor, 5-11-5	P. Blacker
612	002000	Swinging Trio, R. Atkins, 5-11-5	R. Atkins
614	002	Black Rod, F. Winter, 4-10-4	R. de Haan 4
615	0p	Do Dash, L. Cottrell, 4-10-4	S. G. Knight
616	02	Pledge, D. Elsworth, 4-10-4	C. Brown
617		Intake, G. Balding, 4-10-4	B. Reilly

5-2 Pledge, 3-1 High Old Time, 4-1 Black Rod, 6-1 Christmas Visit, Intake, 10-1 Swinging Trio, 16-1 others.

Ascot selections

By Our Racing Correspondent

1.00 Highway. 1.35 Mr Moke. 2.5 Ross Du Vin. 2.35 Accelerate. 3.5 Approaching. 3.40 High Old Time.

Newcastle selections

By Our Racing Correspondent

12.45 Meg's Mantle. 1.15 Starlight Lad. 1.45 Realt Na Nona. 2.15 Why Forget. 2.45 Night Nurse. 3.15 Mole Catcher.

Newcastle programme

12.45 SANDY HURDLE (£624: 2m 120yd)

2	00p000	Three Ears, J. Harris, 6-11-4	J. Harris
3	040002	Meg's Mantle, R. McDonald, 8-11-2	G. Bradley
5	020000	Spanish Handful, R. Stubbs, 6-11-0	M. Malth
7	00010-0	Yankee Ballad, R. Hobson, 5-10-12	D. Shaw
8	0f1/0-44	Baron De Holland, C. Wardman, 7-10-10	P. Holmes
10	0200-10	Larazma, W. Barrett, 8-10-8	S. Johnson
11	4020	Menalist, R. Dods, 5-10-7	A. Stringer
12	1300f0	Never Stop, C. Bell, 4-10-6	Ruth Hargreaves
13	002100	Claymore, W. Wright, 4-10-6	J. Hansen
14	4223-00	Lorna Constance, R. Allan, 6-10-2	B. Holohan
16	0-p0430	Seaton Sands, H. Wharton, 10-10-0	S. Youlden

13-8 Larazma, 11-4 Meg's Mantle, 4-1 Baron De Holland, 13-2 Menalist, 10-1 Claymore, 12-1 Seaton Sands, 16-1 others.

1.15 GREAT LIME CHASE (Handicap: £1,659: 2m 120yd)

4	1b4200/	Marsheistown, W. Clay, 11-11-4	N. Clay
5	030321	Starlight Lad (CD), R. Bethell, 7-10-13	C. Grant
6	0-124u0	Heronford, W. Wright, 11-10-0	Mr E. McIntyre
7	000943	Conker Ville, J. Charlton, 6-10-0	D. Kinsella

1-2 Starlight Lad, 3-1 Conker Ville, 6-1 Heronford, 12-1 Marsheistown.

1.45 MELTON HURDLE (Handicap: £937: 2½m)

1	20/11-00	Vascar, J. Berry, 6-12-5	A. Brown
5	321213	Realt Na Nona (D), M. H. Easterby, 6-11-5	Mr T. Easterby
7	303141	Fogbound (D), P. Curtis, 10-10-9	D. Wilkinson
8	f00000	Gold Invader (C,D), A. Scott, 8-10-3	R. Lamb
11	000402	Ingham (CD), S. Nesbitt, 9-10-0	D. Nesbitt
14	020000	Another Denetop, F. Musgrave, 7-10-0	Miss B. Oliver
16	00f034	Pleasant Polly, S. Payne, 6-10-0	A. Stringer
17	000-023	Cambro Boy, R. Hobson, 5-10-0	D. Shaw
19	p00-0	Sin No More, M. Reddan, 6-10-0	P. Murphy

11-4 Fogbound, 100-30 Ingham, 4-1 Realt Na Nona, 5-1 Vascar, 8-1 Cambro Boy, 10-1 Another Denetop, Gold Invader, 16-1 others.

2.15 MATTS BANK HURDLE (Div I: Novices: £680: 2m 120yd)

1	0-003	Arab Merchant, J. Hanson, 6-11-12	J. Armstrong
5		King's Fashion, Mrs S. Chesmore, 6-11-12	S. Charlton
7	000-004	Mizzenhead, M. W. Easterby, 6-11-12	P. Tuck
10	4403	Why Forget, W. A. Stephenson, 5-11-12	R. Lamb

8-11 Why Forget, 7-4 Arab Merchant, 6-1 Mizzenhead, 16-1 King's Fashion.

2.45 PINTAIL CHASE (Limited handicap: £6,783: 2½m)

1	2012-1f	Night Nurse (CD), M. H. Easterby, 10-12-0	A. Brown
3	01/14-30	Rambling Jack (CD), K. Oliver, 10-10-7	Mr T. G. Dun
4	1113-23	Kenlis (D), M. Dickinson, 10-10-7	T. Carmody

1-6 Night Nurse, 5-1 Rambling Jack, 8-1 Kenlis.

3.15 MATTS BANK HURDLE (Div II: Novices: £692: 2m 120yd)

2	0	Avantie, J. S. Wilson, 5-11-12	C. Grant
3		Bellaport, R. Hobson, 6-11-12	D. Shaw
5	00p42p	Chrisarah, W. Wright, 5-11-12	J. Hansen
6	00/0	Dawn At Eight, W. Haigh, 6-11-12	P. Charlton
8		Mole Catcher, N. Crump, 6-11-12	C. Hawkins
11	0000	Wilton Beacon, J. Harris, 5-11-12	J. Harris
13	200003	Captain Brassbound, R. McDonald, 4-11-0	A. Brown

9-4 Chrisarah, 3-1 Mole Catcher, 9-2 Captain Brassbound, 8-1 Avantie, 10-1 Bellaport, 12-1 Wilton Beacon, 14-1 Dawn At Eight.

Law Report January 15 1981

Court of Appeal

Ex-wife to get half share in sale of house after 30 years

Brykiert v Jones

Before Lord Justice Buckley, Lord Justice Brandon and Lord Justice Oliver

A former wife who had parted from her husband shortly after their marriage and left him in occupation of their jointly purchased home for 30 years is nevertheless entitled to a half share in the proceeds of sale of the house.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by Mrs Jill Jones (formerly Mrs Brykiert) from an order of Mr Justice Whitford that she was only entitled to a one-tenth share in the proceeds of sale of the house in Chandos Avenue, Newbury, and that her former husband, Mr Herbert Brykiert, was entitled to the balance.

Mr P. R. Simpson for Mrs Jones. Mr Brykiert appeared in person.

LORD JUSTICE BUCKLEY said that the parties shortly after their marriage in 1948 bought the house in Chandos Avenue in their joint names for £2,350. Mrs Jones had paid £480 towards the purchase price, and the balance was provided by a mortgage in their joint names. The marriage came to grief, and in 1951 Mrs Jones left the matrimonial home. In 1953 she petitioned unsuccessfully for divorce on the ground of cruelty.

In 1967 the joint tenancy of the house was severed by a notice served by Mr Brykiert. The marriage was eventually dissolved in 1972 and both parties remarried shortly thereafter. But Mr Brykiert remained living in the house throughout and made all the necessary payments to repay the mortgage. He alone had paid the rates and other outgoings on the house. Its estimated value was now £26,000.

In 1979 the proceedings were instituted by Mr Brykiert issuing a writ claiming that the property be sold and a declaration that Mrs Jones be entitled to no more than £480, with interest, out of the sale proceeds. Mrs Jones served a defence claiming entitlement to at least a half share.

Mr Justice Whitford, in deciding that she was entitled to a mere one-tenth share, had overlooked the fact that the conveyance contained an express declaration of trust in favour of the two purchasers as joint tenants.

The parties had declared what their respective interests in the property were: when Mrs Jones left in 1951 she had a vested beneficial interest in the house. Section 53(1)(c) of the Law of Property Act, 1925, expressly provided that any disposition of an equitable interest or trust had to be made in writing and signed by the person making the disposition. There was no suggestion here of any disposition by Mrs Jones of her interest in the house in writing or in any way.

It seemed that the judge had formed the view that in order to allow Mrs Jones to continue to assert her half share he had to find an intention on her part which would justify such a continuing claim. But there was no need for her to justify her claim; it was a right in the property which was vested in her and which she was entitled to rely on without doing anything other than standing by. The fact that she had not demanded an earlier sale of the house or required any rents or profits was of no significance.

The judge had approached the case from the wrong angle. There was no room for any constructive or implied trust of Mrs Jones's initial interest in the house for the benefit of Mr Brykiert. Consequently the appeal should be allowed.

Lord Justice Brandon and Lord Justice Oliver agreed.

The appeal was allowed and a declaration made that Mrs Jones was entitled to half the proceeds from the sale after crediting Mr Brykiert with the mortgage repayments of £1,890.

Solicitors: Graham White & Co, Watford.

Queen's Bench Division

Cannabis definition: new offence created

Taylor v Chief Constable of Kent

Before Lord Justice Donaldson and Mr Justice Forbes

[Judgment delivered January 14]

By the amended definition in section 52 of the Criminal Law Act, 1977, "cannabis" means not only the flowering or fruiting tops but the whole of the plant except cannabis resin and certain other separated products. The effect of the amendment is that, for the purposes of section 6 of the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971 ("it shall not be lawful for a person to cultivate any plant of the genus Cannabis"), cultivation of the cannabis plant is synonomous with the production of a controlled drug, which is an offence under section 4(1).

Accordingly the Divisional Court held that Howard Peter Taylor, of Quarrock Drive, Ashford, on whose premises cannabis plants had been cultivated, had been properly convicted by justices at Ashford, on a charge that he, being the occupier of the premises, permitted or suffered the production of a controlled drug, contrary to section 8 of the Misuse of Drugs Act, and dismissed his appeal.

Section 52 substitutes for the definition of "cannabis" in section 37(1) of the Misuse of Drugs Act: 'Cannabis' (except in the expression 'cannabis resin') means any plant of the genus Cannabis or any part of any such plant (by whatever name designated) except that it does not include cannabis resin or any of the following products after separation from the rest of the plant, namely—(a) mature stalk of any such plant (b) fibre produced from mature stalk of any such plant, and (c) seed of any such plant."

Mr Anthony Shaw for the defendant; Mr Seddon Cripps for the prosecutor.

LORD JUSTICE DONALDSON said that the defendant was the occupier of a house in Ashford. Five cannabis plants were found in a bedroom which he did not occupy. He knew of the presence of the plants, which had been cultivated by another occupant of the house who had been convicted of an offence under section 6 of the Act (cultivating cannabis plants).

It was submitted that he had committed no offence under section 8.

Under the unamended section 37 "cannabis" meant the flowering or fruiting tops of any plant of the genus Cannabis from which the resin had not been extracted. Under that definition the charge would have been that he had permitted premises to be used in the production (which included, by section 37, production by cultivation) of the flowering or fruiting tops of cannabis plants. There was no evidence that he had done that.

That definition had been amended by section 52 of the Criminal Law Act, 1977, to include the whole of the plant except cannabis resin and certain other separated products. What was now charged was that the appellant permitted the premises to be used in the production by cultivation of a controlled drug, namely cannabis plants.

The prosecution argued that by the amendment cultivation of cannabis plants was the same as production by cultivation and that the defendant had been properly convicted under section 8.

For the defendant it was contended that it was not right to equate sections 4(1) and 6, and that Parliament could not have intended the amendment to have rendered section 6 otiose, which was the effect of the prosecution's contention. If that had been the case Parliament could have removed the section and by retaining it Parliament must be presumed to have intended it to have some effect.

The answer to that, which had been given in the course of the argument by Mr Justice Forbes, was that while that might be a good argument in interpreting an Act of Parliament in its original form, it lost much of its force when applied to an Act which had been amended. Parliament could have removed section 6, but there was not much point in doing so even if there was an overlap. There was no answer to the prosecution's submission.

The effect of the amendment might be that reputable horticulturalists who had licences to cultivate cannabis plants, and were therefore exempt from prosecution under section 6, might, in theory, be open to prosecution under section 4(1) unless they also had licences to produce cannabis. They should make certain that their licences covered both activities.

The appeal should be dismissed.

MR JUSTICE FORBES, agreeing, said that it was disturbing that before the amendment no offence could have been committed by an occupier even if he knowingly permitted or suffered cannabis plants to be cultivated on his premises, but that the offence was created by the amendment. If that were Parliament's intention one would have expected some reference to the fact that a new offence had been created.

The amendment, however, had the clear and inevitable effect that the new offence was created. It was worrying that it had been created by a sidewind.

Solicitors: Girling, Wilson & Harvie, Canterbury; Mr R. A. Crabb, Maidstone.

Power to intervene

Ford v Ford

The Court of Appeal held that a judge who, in determining under section 8(1)(e) of the Legal Aid Act, 1974, the liability for costs of a legally aided party, had regard only to evidence of the party's means given over a year earlier, and then made a full order for costs against him, had exercised her discretion wrongfully, and accordingly the Court of Appeal had power to intervene even though the judge had refused leave to appeal.

The court granted leave to the husband to appeal from a costs order in favour of the wife made by Judge Rowland at the conclusion of custody proceedings. The appeal was allowed, and the court directed that a registrar inquire into the husband's current means and report back to the judge.

LORD JUSTICE ORMROD said that on June 1, 1979, after hearings lasting eight days, the judge awarded custody of the two children to the wife. The husband was legally aided with a nil contribution. Costs were reserved at that stage, but it was clear that in the course of the giving of evidence the judge formed a strongly adverse view of the husband, and in particular that he had not made a frank disclosure of his means.

The custody order was later varied, and no decision on costs was made until the final hearing, in October, 1980. The judge then, relying on her previous assessment of the parties, ordered that the husband pay the wife's costs incurred up to June 1, 1979. She had no information before her as to the husband's present means. She refused leave to appeal from that order, and the husband applied to the Court of Appeal.

As a result of section 31(1)(h) of the Supreme Court of Judicature (Consolidation) Act, 1925, the Court of Appeal only had jurisdiction in the matter, leave to appeal having been refused, if the judge had, by taking into consideration extraneous and irrelevant matters, not in truth exercised a discretion at all: Jones v McKie ([1964] 1 WLR 960). By section 8(1)(e) of the Legal Aid Act, the judge had to have regard, inter alia, to the conduct and means of the parties. "Means" meant the means at the time the order for costs was made. Since no evidence was given in October, 1980, as to the husband's means at that time, the judge had not exercised her discretion judicially and the court could and would interfere.

Mr Justice Reeve and Sir Stanley Rees delivered concurring judgments.

Mark Bonham Carter examines the flawed record of a controversial area of government

What is wrong with the Home Office?

Is the Home Office by its very nature accident prone? It is not necessary to look back to the days when Mr Henry Brooke was Home Secretary, only to reflect on the record over the last two and a half years when the Home Office has continued from time to time to trip over its own feet or alternatively, by simply doing nothing, to find itself ambushed by events.

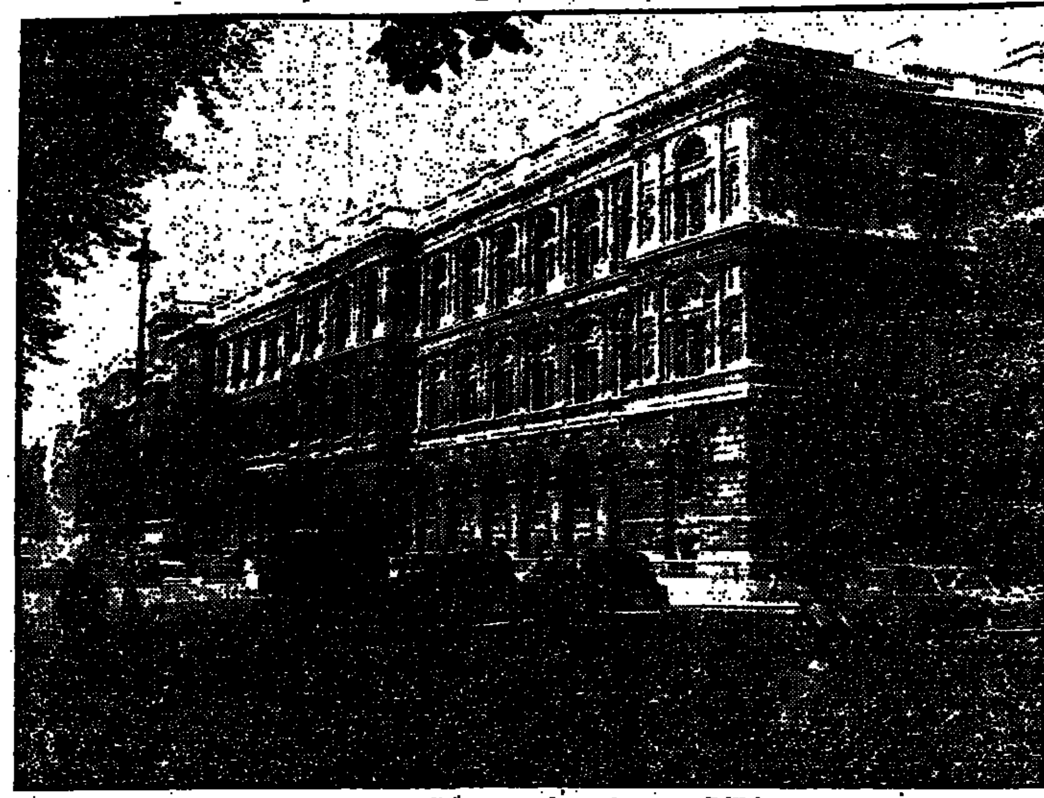
The recent report of the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee describes the impression the Home Office made on them. The committee examined the department's response to the recommendations of official committees, Royal Commissions, and in particular to the Younger Committee on *Privacy* and the subsequent Lindop report. Both were concerned with matters of extreme importance in any democracy where the liberty of the individual may be invaded if his privacy is not protected.

Though the Younger Committee reported in 1972, little has been done to act on its moderate and largely uncontroversial proposals. Arising out of Younger, Lindop was asked to advise on legislation governing the use of computers handling personal information, a significant libertarian issue. Despite the work (and the cost) of the two committees the Home Office made it clear that it attached "no great priority to legislation on technical surveillance devices".

Not only is this an area where individual privacy is at growing risk, but Lindop had stressed to the contrary "the urgency of formulating United Kingdom policy in this field in order that the Government can play a fruitful part in the negotiation of international arrangements". Lindop's fears have largely been fulfilled. The Home Office have procrastinated, and as a consequence this country had fallen behind our colleagues in the EEC and elsewhere on the Continent.

The committee feared that, as a result, we would find ourselves at a disadvantage in the preliminary negotiations preceding the signature of the European Convention on Data Protection, nor were they reassured to be informed by a senior Home Office official "that it is not necessarily a good idea to have a policy cut and dried before the convention is ready for signature"—even if you wish to sign it.

In addition they were surprised to be informed that we had not lost business owing to "the lack of legislation in this country" which could allow "restrictions of data link transmissions to the United Kingdom". In the light of their inquiries the committee described the Home Office as "dilatory and complacent".


The Home Office: a rag-bag of responsibilities

There are other examples. The first is the Home Office v Harriet Harman, where it succeeded in its contempt action. Harriet Harman, legal officer of the National Council for Civil Liberties, had shown documents which had been read out in open court, to a journalist who, had he taken them down in shorthand, would have been at liberty to publish them.

As the judgment shows the Home Office appears to be right in law, but as everyone knows and the judge virtually admitted, the law can be an ass. That being so the question to be asked is: "Why was the action brought?" The Home Office has given its answer—to clarify the law. But its actions belie that answer. The night before the hearing the Home Office offered to call off the action if the NCCL were prepared to pay its own costs. The two positions are incompatible.

The second example is of a different order. In January, 1979 it was revealed that female immigrants were being subjected to so-called "virginity tests" which are really no such thing but intended "to determine whether the *patient* (my italics) had borne a child", and that X-ray tests were used to assess the age of the immigrant minors.

The ensuing row led to an undertaking that virginity tests would cease, but the use of X-rays has continued and if the Yellowlees Report is accepted will continue. The report, which pays no regard to the affront to individual dignity such tests involve, raises a number of other issues to which it pays little attenton.

It concludes, for example, that the use of X-rays of a child's bone provides "a fairly accurate" way of estimating age. In this it is in disagreement with the bulk of expert medical opinion. Professor Marshall, Professor of Human Biology at the University of Technology, writes categorically that "this statement is incorrect" and he goes on: "The true ages of the majority of healthy children . . . would be within about two years of the 'bone age' but in a few cases the discrepancy would be greater than this." Thus the X-ray test provides unreliable information but in addition the report ignores the fact that in June, 1979 the British Medical Association condemned as unethical the use of X-ray examinations for administrative purposes, not least presumably because of the dangers they involve.

Nor to me is the word *patient* an accurate description of someone subjected to such tests in the circumstances with which the report was concerned. A patient accepts voluntarily the tests a doctor suggests. An immigrant child seeking entry to this country is in no sense a patient. Nor is a child in a position to give consent and even supposing consent were given on its behalf, that consent, it could plausibly be argued, would have been given under duress.

And then there is the little fiasco of the Protection of Information Bill which is connected with the reform of section 2 of the Official Secrets Act. This is a matter which has been on the political agenda ever since the Franks Committee reported in 1972. The last Labour government was committed to legislation. The present Government claims to be libertarian. Mr Clement Freud's Freedom of Information Bill followed by Mr Michael Meacher's, shortly to be followed by Mr Frank Hooley's, kept the issue alive. Mr Freud's Bill received an unopposed Second Reading, survived an unruly committee stage, only to be lost with the calling of a general election in May, 1979.

But it received support from members of all parties. It is against this background of widespread recognition of the need for reform that the production of the Protection of Official Information Bill in 1979 was such a characteristic Home Office feat. How could it have hoped to get away with a measure so highly restrictive and containing so many obnoxious elements?

In the event, after a severe mauling in the House of Lords and with the realization that the Blunt affair might not have been revealed had the Bill already been enacted, the Home Secretary rapidly and wisely withdrew it. Had he not done so its numerous defects would have been more widely recognized.

Other examples could be produced. But why do these things happen at the Home Office? It cannot be what is known as the human element. The politicians responsible for the Home Office and the civil servants who run it are no different from their colleagues elsewhere. It may be that the functions it performs have led to attitudes and practices which provide some clues.

The Home Office has accumulated a rag-bag of responsibilities which include among others policy on criminal law, official secrets, the police and the prisons, liquor licensing, censorship and obscene displays, electoral matters, taxis and immigration.

It is difficult to find a common thread linking these various and miscellaneous duties except that the bulk of them are regulatory. It has to stop people committing crimes, escaping from prisons, selling alcohol out of hours or putting on obscene displays.

"Thou shalt not" might appear to be the name of the game. It makes it difficult to perceive Home Office policy and practice as other than negative: this apparently negative approach has rarely been more exquisitely presented than in the letter to the Home Affairs Committee, and reprinted in their report, from the Assistant Under Secretary of State for the Criminal Justice Department, a masterpiece in its genre.

And the daily process of dealing, as it does, with innumerable individual cases where the possibilities of error are manifold, may well discourage bold initiatives and encourage a spirit of caution.

A prime example was its old responsibility for advising the Sovereign on the reprieve of an individual under sentence of death. This was a decision no Home Secretary could delegate. It was a decision that only he could take. The highly centralized nature of decision-taking which many have noticed as characteristic of the Home Office may derive from the way in which the consequences of capital punishment had to be handled.

In addition there is the curious fact that until recently the Home Office was responsible for Northern Ireland. There, for as long as possible, it left ill alone. There can be few better instances of the danger of doing nothing until you are ambushed by events as this country was when the present troubles broke out.

But the legacy of its old responsibility for Northern Ireland is still to be found in the Home Office. The Northern Ireland Office was largely staffed from the Home Office. A number of civil servants now holding high posts in the department have seen service there and by chance it is the case that both the present Home Secretary and his immediate predecessor were secretaries of state in the province.

One can only ask whether the circumstances and the traditions of government in Northern Ireland which must impress on anyone the importance of security, of secrecy and law and order are the right background for a ministry which is in effect responsible for human rights in the United Kingdom in their broadest sense. For despite the regulatory functions to which I have referred the Home Office has duties which would test the energy and imagination of the most constructive and humane intelligence.

It is responsible for prison and penal reform, probation and after-care, race relations and securing equal opportunities for women, for broadcasting, privacy and the extension of freedom by reform of the Official Secrets Act. How is it that the negative appears to have smothered the positive role, that immigration control appears to have a higher priority than a drive to improve race relations, that the introduction of short, sharp shocks and punitive measures towards young offenders is higher on the agenda than prison or penal reform?

If only more importance were attached and seen by the public to be attached to the positive aspect of the Home Office's functions it might change the public perception of the department and the atmosphere in which members of the department work.

In all these areas there is plenty of room for constructive and humane reform which would in no way conflict with the purist tenets of monetarism. A glimmer of compassion might be no bad thing. Mr Whitelaw has the opportunity to be a great reforming Home Secretary. The forthcoming Nationality Bill and his reaction to the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure will give some indication of whether he proposes to take it or not.

Camp David: how the EEC can help

Cairo

The United States Embassy in Cairo is now allegedly the largest in the world but foreign diplomats requesting information about the progress of the Camp David peace talks have discovered that the embassy reacts to them with the timidity of a banana republic. Several European embassy officials were asked by the Americans to submit their questions on paper before visiting the United States compound and found, when they kept their appointments, that a committee of American officials had been delegated to reply, reading each optimistic answer from a small piece of typed paper. It did not say a lot about American confidence in Camp David.

One Southern European diplomat uses distinctly undiplomatic language to describe the American effort to persuade the world that the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty is on course. "They've been deluding themselves", he says. "They just talk bullshit. They've been deluding us as well." It is in this atmosphere of distrust and suspicion between Europe and the United States that the Arab nations—and particularly Egypt—are waiting to find out the measure of the so-called EEC "initiative" on the Middle East.

The truth, of course, is that it does not exist. There is no plan, no formula, no set of proposals in Lord Carrington's hands. There are no maps, no new ceasefire lines and no negotiating positions, nor are there likely to be when the British Foreign Setretary takes over the Presidency of the Council of Ministers in June. His current visit to Egypt is therefore taking place in a kind of euphoric vacuum in which the Egyptians are earnestly hoping that the EEC can spare them the collapse of Camp David but increasingly coming to realize that it may not be able to do so.

Reluctance

For the Community has no intention of coming to the rescue of the peace plan that Mr Jimmy Carter constructed in the high noon of his Presidency. The European nations never showed much enthusiasm for the treaty, and the Israeli reluctance to allow the Palestinians any serious form of self-determination has only served to emphasize the reasons for their scepticism.

The Venice declaration last June therefore enunciated two basic principles which the Europeans—or the "international community" as they rather pompously called themselves—regarded as unfulfilled by the terms of the Camp David peace treaty. These were: the right to existence and to security of all the states in the region, including Israel; and justice for all the people, which implies the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.



King Husain: to offer him a measure of control again over the West Bank would, the Egyptians say, only return the Palestinian problem to the unsatisfactory status quo that existed before 1967

Just what these "legitimate rights" were thought to be remained tantalizingly undefined but it was against this background that M Gaston Thorn, the Luxembourg Foreign Minister, set out on his Middle East tour to discuss the prospects of an Arab-Israeli peace with the nations involved. He came back to Europe acutely aware of Israeli hostility towards the EEC's involvement and of Syria's tight military and political control of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The EEC nonetheless decided to produce a number of discussion papers on the Middle East. There were documents on Israeli withdrawal from occupied territory, on Jerusalem and on security. The British wrote a paper on the principles of self-determination. These files are kept in Brussels and have never been released although they are, by the very nature of things, scarcely a peace plan. They constitute only ideas that could be included in a future community policy.

Such a policy has depended upon the progress of Camp David. Only now are the Egyptians coming to realize that the peace treaty will not guarantee Palestinian autonomy and that the Israeli Government does not intend to uproot its settlements in the West Bank. The advent of the Reagan era and the appearance of the "Jordan option"—the notion which even Dr Kissinger seems to be espousing whereby King Husain would be offered any inducement to enter peace talks—has now caused near-panic in Cairo.

President Sadat has now let it be known that he needs an alternative to Camp David. His officials talk of a "broadening" of the Camp David peace process but there is little doubt that any new Arab-Israeli agreements would look very different from Mr Jimmy Carter's carefully delineated essays. Above all else, Mr Sadat wants to avoid the possibility that Mr Reagan will impatiently turn to Jordan.

To offer King Husain a measure of control again over the West Bank would, the Egyptians say, only return the Palestinian problem to the unsatisfactory status quo that existed before 1967. More important still—though less publicly expressed by the Cairo Government—is Mr Sadat's antipathy towards King Husain. He has no intention of seeing himself cut out of the peace-making process and ceding the limelight to the Jordanian monarch.

It happens that the EEC is almost equally opposed to the Jordan option for the simple reason that it only further confuses the problem of Palestinian self-determination. The issue therefore revolves around the degree to which the Palestinians—or more specifically the PLO—can participate in a new peace process.

Europe cannot rescue Camp David but by the same token it cannot produce an alternative plan. It has neither the funds nor the political muscle to persuade and cajole Israel and Egypt to broaden their peace within the Arab world. But it can provide a platform for the Americans to find another formula; it can act as a transition between a dead peace plan and a new one.

And in this, the EEC can exercise a vital function; it can talk to the PLO. Even during the Lebanese civil war, the British Government acted—through its embassy in Beirut—as a conduit between the United States Government and Mr Yassir Arafat, the PLO chairman. The British have maintained these contacts and only last month a very senior Foreign Office official met Mr Arafat in Beirut.

It now seems more than likely that Mr Arafat's next distinguished visitor could be the next President of the Council of Ministers—Lord Carrington himself.

Robert Fisk

Geoffrey Smith

Radicals in search of a cause

One of the principal predicaments of Labour right-wingers these days is that they are not sure what they believe in. They know what they are against. Marxist left-wingers and Thatcherite Conservatives. That would seem to leave sufficient ground in between for sober management of the nation's affairs. But sober management is not enough for social democrats who entered politics to change society.

This essential radicalism is often forgotten by those who seem to regard social democrats, or a possible new centre party, as instruments for making the country safe for Conservatives during the intervals between Conservative governments. A spirit of radicalism is not much use, though, for those who cannot make up their minds what to be radical about. Social democrats need a philosophy that goes beyond moderation.

Their last prophet was Anthony Crosland, whose great work, *The Future of Socialism**, is republished this week. Many of the current political difficulties of the social democrats come from the recognition that some of the central tenets of Croslandite revisionism have little appeal in today's climate. It is no use basing policies on the assumption of a steady rise in public expenditure in real terms unless it is possible to achieve the ecoonmic growth without which higher and higher public spending is not politically or economically acceptable.

Equality of enjoyment

Yet is it true that Croslandism has simply been outdated by changing conditions? Can it be itself revised to provide an updated philosophy for a new generation of social democrats? that is the question examined in another book published this week, *The Socialist Agenda***.

The essence of Crosland's version of the good society was what might be termed equality of enjoyment, which was to be pursued without massive extensions of public ownership. The word "enjoyment" has a double significance. Crosland was not thinking simply of equality of opportunity, but of equality in the outcome—in income, status and access to the good things of life. He also wished to jettison the puritan element in the socialist tradition. Life was to be enjoyed. Problems were to be solved.

This optimistic vein runs through *The Future of Socialism* and is evident in many of the essays in *The Socialist Agenda*. It is less in keeping with the gloomier world of today, where the conditions for optimism are less evident. There is less attachment to the concept of equality now that the principal preoccupation is not how to share the fruits of prosperity but how to revive a sluggish economy.

Yet one does not need to be an egalitarian to see that there is a place in British politics for those who champion the underdog, and who believe in a more highly organized society rather than in reliance on market forces, because the underdog never gets fat in the market. They therefore want a government that will be interventionist without upsetting the balance of the mixed economy.

One of the critical areas for intervention, according to this school of thought, is in fixing rates of pay. Incomes policy was not a central feature of Crosland's thinking, but two of the 12 essays in *The Socialist Agenda* deal directly with incomes policy, and others have something to say on the subject. At a time when there is still acute anxiety over inflation, this is a logical approach among politicians and political thinkers who believe in a managed economy.

Professor James Meade's alternative proposals for a system of arbitration are a particularly notable contribution to the subject. I suspect that he puts too much faith in the general acceptance of a rational approach—which is another way of saying that he is too optimistic, too trusting, in my judgment. But the question of whether or not to have an incomes policy has been so much at the heart of British politics and government for so many years that it is democratically healthy for the social democrats to work out with some care how such a policy might be operated.

What the social democrats are doing is seeking in their economic policies to update the postwar consensus from which Mrs Thatcher wants to break away. That consensus has been rather tarnished in the last year or two by its association with failure. If the Thatcher experiment fails in its turn then a return to the consensus might appear a rather more attractive option than it seemed as the Callaghan Government was crumbling. It would be best if the country could be presented with a choice between this and Conservative policies at the next election.

But from what political base should an updated version of the old consensus policies be presented? One of the most critical questions in British politics today is whether this can and should be done from within the Labour Party. Most though probably not quite all contributors to *The Socialist Agenda* write in the belief that it should be. Others, with similar views on policy, are expecting to break away.

A good deal has been said and written recently about the prospects and timing of such a move. There is a considerable danger of making the plans sound too cut and dried. Nothing is definite. Mr Roy Jenkins is expected to raise his own standard, possibly in March. Mrs Williams, Dr Owen and Mr Rodgers have been having discussions with him, recognizing that it would be to the advantage of all of them if any move they made was concerted with Mr Jenkins. But it is not yet certain that the trio will break away, and they would probably be reluctant to move as early as March.

Whether there is a break-away from the parliamentary party in the next six months is likely to be influenced considerably by what happens at the party's special conference on January 24 to determine the new method for electing the leader. In one sense the significance now attached to this conference is curious. When it was first arranged it seemed likely to be critical to the immediate future of the party because it was expected to create an electoral college which might well have chosen a left-wing leader in preference to the right-winger elected by the parliamentary party.

That would have been a major development whose significance would not have been lost on the general public. But in the meantime the parliamentary party has itself elected a new left-wing leader. So whatever the special conference decides will not affect the immediate leadership of the party. There would therefore be more difficulty in persuading Labour voters that this was an issue that justified splitting the party.

Yet the conference does matter for the long term, and for its symbolism. If an electoral college is set up especially if it is one in which the parliamentary party has fewer than half the votes, the leader will be made more vulnerable to the pressure of the constituency parties and the trade unions, and the ascendancy of the left within the party will have been confirmed. Coming on top of everything else, it would make a break more likely. And that would in turn make it less likely that Crosland's legacy would become the official policy of the Labour Party.

**The Future of Socialism* by Anthony Crosland (Cape £8.95).

***The Socialist Agenda: Crosland's Legacy*. Edited by David Lipsey and Dick Leonard (Cape £7.95).

MOSCOW DIARY

The English are well known to the Russians as dog-lovers, and the typical Englishman in Soviet films and popular imagination always has one or two dogs in his home. Nowadays the description applies equally to the average Muscovite. A mania for dogs, cats, birds, hamsters and pets of all kinds is gripping the country. Almost every household boasts some four-legged creature.

Dogs are especially fashionable. At any time of the day or night you can see young men exercising their dogs in the parks or pensioners walking them in the yards and gardens beside each block of flats. As you go up the staircase in almost any block you can hear barking and yapping coming through the usual black, supposedly soundproof padding on people's front doors.

All breeds can be found: poodles for ballet dancers, terriers for teachers, wolfhounds for engineers. Alsatians, St Bernards, collies and English bulldogs are popular. So, in spite of a natural and somewhat embarrassing disadvantage in the winter snow, is the dachshund. At the moment, in fact, the dachshund is in short supply. Ten years ago there were plenty to be had. Now you have to wait years if you apply for one at a recognized kennel club.

A dog has become a prestige symbol, a sign of money and good taste which can be trotted out daily to be shown to the neighbours. It's a far cry from the postwar years when most Russians could hardly feed themselves, or from the terrible 900-day siege of Leningrad during the war when dogs were eaten to keep a starving population alive.

The bigger the dog the greater the prestige, and people will go to inordinate lengths to acquire the right status symbol. I know of one couple who live in Yakutsk, in eastern Siberia, where the winter temperature falls to minus 50 degrees, who travelled 4,000 miles to Moscow to collect a huge Afghan hound which they took back to share their one-room flat together with a child and mother-in-law.

A good pedigree dog can be quite expensive—up to £70—and breeders make a fortune. It's a profitable and still legal form of private enterprise.

The Moscow pet market is one of the most fascinating places in the city. Every Saturday and Sunday it is thronged with pigeon-fanciers, fish-breeders, peasants from the countryside with rabbits, hamsters, canaries, coypu and other creatures for sale. A huge crowd pushes and jostles round the stalls, prodding, peering, filling up old pickle jars with brightly coloured miniature fish or spooning out birdseed from a sack into cones made from old newspapers.

Dogs are not officially meant to be sold in the market, but there are plenty around. Usually their owners hang around the entrance, carrying large baskets covered with a blanket from which you can occasionally see a wet black nostril poking out. Big dogs sit on the ground under the trees, looking rather forlorn, especially in midwinter when only a bit of straw or old newspaper is put down for them on the snow.

Many sellers, on the lookout in case they are moved on by the police for trading without a licence, keep their puppies tucked inside their jackets. As you walk past they flash open their coats with a furtive "psst" like dirty-picture sellers to reveal a trembling, furry face.

All dogs should be officially registered with the local veterinary authorities and are then given a number or address tag which they have to wear on their collars at all times. They are inoculated against rabies and the owners are told how to look after them. Most Russians are fanatically proud of their dogs and eagerly take part in the shows and competitions organized for kennel club members. The winning dogs are awarded certificates and medals, and often their owners take them for Sunday walks with all their medals and ribbons proudly strapped to the animal's chest. It could only happen in Russia.

But there is a sad side to the present explosion in the canine population which is seriously worrying the authorities. More and more people buy dogs out of caprice and do not look after them, turning them loose when they tire of them or move into a new flat, and the number of strays has increased alarmingly. The law is explicit: any dog found wandering without its owner on the streets, in parks, markets, on city transport or elsewhere is considered a stray and may be picked up. If not claimed within three days it can be destroyed or sent to laboratories for medical research.



Each year in Moscow alone some 27,000 stray dogs and 23,000 cats are destroyed. Local authorities in the Ukraine annually get rid of 200,000 dogs that have no apparent owner.

There have been all kinds of suggestions what to do, including a legal limit on the number of dogs you can own and the introduction of a dog licence. One journal recently criticized those who adopted strays out of pity. It says one woman in Moscow has in her flat 40 dogs, 38 puppies and two cats; another has 12 dogs, six puppies and 16 cats. It called this absurd and a nuisance to all the neighbours.

The article described the hatred that municipal dog-catchers arouse in the population. They have been attacked and beaten, their vans have had the window smashed and crowds have surrounded them screaming "murderers" and "sadists". But it said the health dangers posed to people and to other pets by strays were considerable.

Not long ago a pack of stray dogs made its home among the scenery and discarded props of the main Moscow film studios. Becoming hungry, they attacked and bit people working there and killed four black swans which were the studio's pride. But when they were finally put down by dog-catchers there was such an outcry that the local authorities had to set up a special inquiry.

The idea of a licence has met stiff opposition. When a tax on each dog-owner of one rouble (63p) a month was imposed in the Ukraine in 1970 thousands complained to the press. The authorities said it cost at least that to provide the extra street cleaning, free inoculations and to build parks where dogs could be exercised.

Finally this year the state got tough and imposed for the first time a universal dog licence of 15 roubles (£9) a year. The aim is not so much to make money but induce a greater sense of responsibility in dog-owners.

A new campaign has now begun to suppress the latest fad: exotic pets. Many Russians have started to keep wild animals in their flats: monkeys, foxes, badgers, snakes and even lions. A tragic case of a family in Baku recently whose lion killed the child and then fatally attacked the mother was given great prominence in the press as a warning.

But dogs are still by far the most popular pets: Laika, the space dog sent up in a sputnik 20 years ago, is still revered. Laika is a common name for dogs. Others include Belka and Strekla, Chappa and Barboss. There was some puzzlement last year at the local vet's over the name the British Embassy doctor gave his cat. He called it after the first word that every foreigner immediately learns: PECTOPAH.

In fact the word, which you see written up everywhere, is the Cyrillic form of "restoran", meaning a restaurant. When the cat was taken for her name, "Restoran", was the reply. With a furrowed brow the vet, astonished at English eccentricity, carefully wrote down PECTOPAH.

Michael Binyon

هكذا من الأصل



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SUBJECT TO LAW

In 1980 the number of industrial disputes was lower than in any year since the war. It would be idle to pretend that the legislative reforms embodied in the Employment Act 1980 can have had more than the most marginal influence on this sudden improvement on the exceptionally bad record of 1979. Even the advent of a Government less responsive to industrial pressure than its predecessor cannot explain the change by itself. The main cause has been the recession and a growing reluctance to risk one's job for a speculative bargaining gain. It is not a means of achieving industrial peace that any policy maker would recommend, though it may serve as a reminder that industrial peace is determined by other factors at least as much as by the *framework of industrial law*.

Into this hush, unhappy and undoubtedly temporary, comes Mr Prior's green paper on reforming the framework of the law. It is the longest paper of its tint ever produced, and very possibly the greenest too. It genuinely is a summary of a debate, rather than a statement of policy with marginal concessions to the ritual of consultation. Every proposition is balanced by its alternative, the objections to every course of action are scrupulously defined. The effect is one of immobility, inscrutability. It will take a long debate before the lineaments of a Bill or a white paper begin to emerge from the document published yesterday.

To more Tories than a year ago, that may not be unwelcome. The Government has problems enough on its hands for the moment. Mr Prior's search for a consensus on fundamentals is not unwise. But the time for such a leisurely investigation was 1979 or even earlier. Instead Mr Prior brought in an Act that concentrated attention on marginal factors and left the fundamentals untouched. And since the issues are indeed complex and full of dangers, it is impossible to come up with legislative proposals overnight.

The basic propositions to work on are relatively straightforward, however. In times of prosperity—and it is with those in mind and not the current abnormal situation that any measures must be designed—our industrial productivity falters by comparison with that of our competitors. Whatever role *faults of management have in* this, it is clear that trade union conservatism and protectionism must bear a large part of the blame. A degree of mutual suspicion between management and employee is inherent in the relationship. But too often the conflicts that arise do not reflect the feelings of the workers concerned, but those of a minority, *or of others not directly involved* at all.

The right to withdraw labour is a basic freedom (though it is one the law does not explicitly safeguard). The immunities that apply to trade disputes are broadly essential to the exercise of that right. But the harm that a strike can do to an industry and to the community is so *great that the immunities* ought to be made conditional on two things: that workers directly *affected by the action should* have explicitly approved it, and that procedures which allow full scope for negotiation and conciliation should have been exhausted before action is taken. Mechanisms for ensuring that these conditions have been satisfied need statutory definition, which may not be easy. Plainly a show of hands at an ill-*attended factory gate meeting is* no proper basis for a major strike. Workers directly affected might appropriately include others as well as those actually called out, though the relationship would have to be fairly close.

It should be irrelevant to these procedures whether a strike is official or unofficial. Where *satisfactory* procedures were not observed, civil actions could be brought against the union as well as individuals (unless the union could show that it had made reasonable efforts to control its members). Thus each union would have a strong motive to *bring its internal disciplines* to bear upon irresponsible members. The tendency for power in the unions to pass downwards towards shopfloor leaders (already noted by the Donovan report in 1968, and greatly advanced since then) has gone so far that small groups of workers in strategic positions can often apply pressure regardless of the wishes of their colleagues, let alone their employers.

Where the conditions for attracting immunity did not apply it would be open to employers, and to others with a substantial interest (another matter needing careful definition), to bring an action for damages against the offender. Already employers often prefer not to use such powers where *they exist*, because their *first* interest is in putting the dispute behind them, not recovering *damages*. But the existence of legal powers even only in reserve has a great influence on the course of industrial negotiations, for unions are basically law-abiding organizations.

Many trade unionists would oppose on *instinct* any attempt *to modify the hallowed immunities* conferred at the beginning of the century, just as they protested against the minor reforms made by the 1980 Act. The latter have *not* yet really been tested in practice, but the signs are that they carry with them that consensus support (even from many inside the movement) which Mr Prior rightly sought. Future *legislation must be governed* also to some extent by what is found to attract enough sympathy (or at least acquiescence) to have a prospect of a durable life on the statute book. The proposals made here are not put forward as an attack on the power of the *unions as such* but an attempt to ensure that it is exercised with the restraint that great power demands.

THE POLES AND THEIR POPE

It is a fitting coincidence that the commander in chief of the Warsaw Pact, Marshal Viktor Kulikov, should be visiting Warsaw just as Mr Lech Walesa is *in Rome*. "*How many divisions* has the Pope?", Stalin is said to have once asked rhetorically. If Marshal Kulikov were to ask the same question during his talks in Poland, he might well *receive the answer*, "a good many more than the Warsaw Pact can count on".

For the Poles, Pope John Paul is a symbol of Polish pride and Catholic piety, and his election had an electrifying effect on the national mood. The *strikes* of last *summer*, and the emergence of the independent trade unions, had fundamentally economic causes, and would no doubt have taken place, anyway. But the very existence of a Polish Pope—reinforced by his triumphant tour of Poland in June, 1979—has infused the national resurgence in Poland with a confidence and an emotional durability *it might not otherwise* have had.

Mr Walesa himself is conspicuously a Catholic: the vast majority of his followers are Catholic, as indeed are the majority of Poles. Since Mr Walesa is in Rome to meet the trade unions as well as go to the Vatican, some Italian labour leaders were not surprisingly *upset when he said that he would* not have come to Italy if it were not for the Pope. But he was merely expressing, in characteristically direct fashion, what all Poles feel in their hearts: that the Pope is their lifeline to the outside world, and their greatest source of moral support.

At the same time, Pope John Paul *has been careful not to* intervene directly in the turbulent events of recent months. He has supported the *Polish* workers *and their* intellectual allies in a general way, but has distanced himself from the detail of their conflict with the Communist authorities. The Pope yesterday spoke of the Poles' maturity, and said he supported the right of working men and women to "associate freely", adding that he had been saying as much to "*all people of good will, as dis*creetly as possible".

It has been left to the Catholic Church in Poland itself to decide how to react in practice to the Polish "quiet revolution". The Polish bishops have exerted a moderating influence on the free trade unionists, some of whom would like to take a more radical line. The Church has argued, rightly, *that to go too far* would be to risk the remarkable gains already made, including greater *religious freedom and the right* to broadcast Mass. The appeals which the Primate, Cardinal Wyszynski, made for "prudence and responsibility" at the height of the August strikes probably contributed as much as anything to the maintenance of a calm atmosphere in which an agreement with the Government could be negotiated.

On the other hand some Poles —and in particular, the intellectuals advising the free trade *unions—feel that the Church has* taken prudence and responsibility to an extreme, and runs the risk of inadvertently helping the authorities to stifle the union movement. In October Cardinal Wyszynski met the Communist Party leader, Mr Stanislaw Kania, and agreed to "constructive cooperation with the state".

Then last month the Polish Episcopate went farther and called for "firm opposition" to "*irresponsible statements or* actions" which might "expose the country to grave danger".

What the bishops had in mind, clearly, was the possibility of a Soviet invasion. Both dissidents and workers would agree that nothing should be done which might provoke the Russians or create circumstances in which Moscow would have an excuse for *intervening*. But they evidently feel that the Church has veered perilously close to *offering aid and comfort to the* Government at a time when the future of free trade unionism is far from assured, and when a number of dissidents have been harassed or imprisoned.

At the same time the Church in Poland has a long history of complex struggle with the Communist authorities, and has learned the hard way how to *maintain its independence*. Few people can be more aware of this, indeed, than the Pope himself. As Cardinal Wojtyla of Cracow, Pope John Paul proved himself a master of guerrilla tactics against the local party bosses.

He also understands, and has made clear on this occasion, that the course of events in Poland depends not only on cooperation between the Church, the workers and the intellectuals, but also *on the achievement of a working* relationship between the forces of opposition and the Government. *The presence of a high* Government official in Mr Walesa's delegation suggests *that, despite its dislike of alter*native centres of power in Poland, the Polish Government understands this too.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Humane rationale of civil defence

From Dr Sue Dowling

Sir, Mr Harding and Mr Stinchcombe (January 6) say that the rationale of home defence is humane. As a doctor I find it hard to know what "humane" might mean after an attack by nuclear missiles, each containing an explosive yield between 80 and 400 times that of the Hiroshima bomb. Moreover, I doubt if the health services' plans for nuclear war, based on the Department of Health and Social Security's Home Defence Circular (HDC(77)1) could be described as humane.

In the past, when diseases such as smallpox, typhoid and plague threatened to wipe out large numbers of the community, doctors were expected to put their patients' well-being first, risking their own death through infection. Now, when faced with a potential "epidemic" which would cause more suffering and death than anything previously known, health authorities have been instructed that all medical care will be withheld deliberately in the immediate postnuclear attack period. "Medical staff, who would be irreplaceable except in the long term, should not be wasted by *allowing them to enter highly radio*active areas to assist casualties." (HDC(77)1). This no-care period, *when suffering and death would be* greatest, could last for several weeks, depending on the type and severity of the nuclear attack, weather conditions, etc.

Once radiation has reached "safe" levels, health professionals may resume their work—but only with those who require limited surgery and have a good chance of eventual recovery. The dying, those likely to die and anyone suffering radiation sickness will be kept away from the remaining hospital services.

Neither the Hippocratic Oath nor the various international codes of medical ethics give an easy answer to the way in which doctors should behave in such situations. However, in the light of the war plans of the DHSS the ethics of the profession seem curiously obsolete, as though reflecting the human innocence of a bygone age.

How can we withhold our services when they are most needed? Why are we so silently accepting the judgment of the DHSS that it is *better to prolong the life of a few* than relieve the unimaginable suffering of those likely to die? The *advice of the General Medical* Council and the British Medical Association on these ethical issues *is urgently needed but has so far* not been forthcoming.

Yours sincerely,
SUE DOWLING,
Lecturer in Community Health,
University of Bristol,
Department of Community Health,
Canynge Hall,
Whiteladies Road,
Bristol, *Avon*.
January 10.

Economic realities of deterrence

From Air Vice-Marshal J. C. T. Downey

Sir, The long fusillade of recent letters to *The Times* about defence has become scattered across diverse targets ranging from strategy to military bands and there remains but one common concern: the growing impoverishment of our defences. We are finding it harder and harder to reconcile the accelerating cost of defence with the rising living standards we have come to expect. This happens to be particularly noticeable in Britain at the moment because our economy is flagging so badly, but in principle the problem is the same everywhere.

Its cause is defence hyper-inflation, the product of a protracted cold war coexisting with manifold technologies. Every year each defence pound, dollar or rouble buys fewer front-line replacements. For twenty years British defence spending has been held roughly constant in ordinary real money terms and in that time our forces have been almost halved.

Over the same period Soviet forces have actually increased but *only at enormous cost in the denial* of economic, social and political progress. It is no comfort that the weaker Eastern block economies feel the pinch even more than those of the West as a whole. A militarily strong enemy is dangerous enough; if he risks bankruptcy in the process he may become unstable as well, witness Poland.

Of course, neither a long confrontation nor the military use of technology is anything new, but there now exist two crucial new factors in the equation: the great fertility of late twentieth-century technology and the fact that in the nuclear age virtually the entire order of battle for war has to be maintained and constantly updated in peace. Together these circumstances create a new strand in military *history which profoundly alters* the economies of defence.

Before the atom bomb, nations at peace *could rely on a nucleus of* armed force supported by a research and development effort which could be *run at tick-over*: both could be massively expanded by mobilization if a need was foreseen. Today the military-technological competition between the opposing power blocks, even although they are nominally at peace, is at levels formerly achieved only in war. The modern arms race is a race in which the pace must for ever accelerate so long as neither side dares fall behind.

This is a fundamental problem which cannot be altered much by fewer brass bands or even by new strategies. Defence inflation is now pinching so acutely that in Britain even our long standing bipartisan political approach to defence is crumbling. At the next general election we seem likely to face a choice between continued but weakening deterrence or a return to relative defencelessness and appeasement reminiscent of the middle 1930s. If so, *public* common sense will probably choose the former, but given time that choice will become more and more uncertain as any effective level of deterrence becomes more and more costly.

When will someone of political stature come forward who backs deterrence whilst that is feasible but *who also genuinely seeks its suc*cessor? To prolong the life of deterrence means promoting greater political unity in Western Europe where the Alliance wastes at least a third of its nominal strength on internal competition and lack of military standardization. But neither to left nor right does one see, at best, more than a lukewarm attitude to European constitutional development.

And where does one see any real belief at all in the development of new international security arrangements? The United Nations has become a sick joke in comparison with the seemingly hard-headed realism of deterrence. And yet historically nuclear deterrence is newer and more experimental than the UN and its predecessor.

As deterrence declines under economic pressure, or *creates* economic and social unrest in its wake, and as nuclear proliferation advances, we shall be lucky indeed if the inevitable nuclear war is sufficiently localized to enforce new fundamental thinking before it is too late.

Yours etc.,
JOHN DOWNEY,
Windmill House, Bosham,
West Sussex.

From Professor Lord Kaldor, FBA

Sir, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton (January 9) *regards* the maintenance of the Royal Navy at its present size as vital to Western defence. But *he fails to consider* whether in 10 years' time it will be possible to sustain a Navy of its *present size* in the absence of an industrial base.

If present trends and policies are allowed to continue, membership of the EEC, a grossly overvalued exchange rate, highly deflationary fiscal and monetary policies, our industrial capacity of the so-called "traditional" industries, such as *steel, engineering and shipbuilding*, will have largely disappeared, and we would be dependent on imports *from abroad for naval procurement*. In peace time the new submarines, destroyers, cruisers, etc, required by *the Navy could no doubt be obtained* from German, American or Japanese shipyards.

*But this is not a satisfactory sub*stitute for an industrial home base, since in matters of defence production every country gives absolute priority to its own needs, and only the residue is made available to others. Moreover for the greatly enhanced requirements in time of war there is *no* effective substitute for an adequate domestic productive capacity.

This was the main lesson of the First World War, which led, in 1920, to the imposition of high protective duties in a number of specific industries which were considered important for defence capability; and this was followed in 1932 by the introduction of a protective tariff on *all* manufacturers.

These measures enabled British industrial capacity to be sustained (*absolutely, if not relatively*) in the half-century 1920-1970. Since the early 1970s, however, a process of *deindustrialization had begun* which has acquired a strongly accelerated momentum in the last few years.

It is no coincidence that the period of Britain's greatest preponderance as a naval power was in the *middle of the nineteenth century* when Britain's share of world industrial production was the highest.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS KALDOR,
King's College, Cambridge.

Role in the Church of Opus Dei

From the Reverend Father H. S. Thwaites, SJ

Sir, Your Profile of Opus Dei (January 12) struck me as being pleasantly reminiscent of some of the sixteenth and seventeenth-century charges levelled against the Jesuits: secretive; politically inclined; gliding in disguise down the corridors of power; *attracting* the young, only to brain-wash them; and, to cap it all, so distressingly favoured by the Pope.

With hindsight we can see that those critics did not discern the *signs of the times. They did not* recognize that the Church Militant needed a new sort of militia. And *it could be the same today. It would* seem that many of our young people, reared in a permissive *society*, feel the need of the direction and discipline that Opus Dei apparently offers them. And of course we must remember that for every disaffected individual who leaves Opus Dei there must be at least a thousand who enjoy it and see no reason for leaving.

If I may add a personal note, I must admit that I have been favourably impressed by what I have seen of Opus Dei products. Since 1958 I have been chaplain to overseas students here in south London, and have met a number of young men who, in East Africa or here in England, received their spiritual formation from Opus Dei establishments. One and all have *edified* me by the quality of their faith and by the way they put their faith into practice. So far as I know there is not a lapsed or really indifferent Catholic among them. And I judge a tree by its fruits.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH THWAITES, SJ,
Catholic International Student Chaplaincy,
San Marino,
28 Upper Tooting Park, SW17.
January 13.

From Dr Anthony D. Clift

Sir, I read with some amazement your "Profile of Opus Dei", as it hardly accorded with my own experience as a member *for several* years. I suppose its main defect was that it sought to represent the organization as rigid, conformist and overbearing without even touching on the freedom of action which is so close to the heart of its members. This freedom exists on joining and of course in being able to leave at any *time*, as well as *in the spiritual* observances recommended, which can of course be carried out by any Catholic *whether a member* or not.

When I read of its appeal to the "*lonely, emotionally immature* and those with an unfulfilled sense of mission" I really had to reach for *my spectacles* just to make sure! As a busy GP with a fair research and teaching programme, as well as being a family man with 12 children, I really felt I didn't quite fit the picture! (my immediate "*mission*" this afternoon was to hold my own in a snowball fight!)

The beautiful concept of making one's work acceptable to God is not unique to Opus Dei but is something that its members make an attempt, however inadequate, to achieve. I feel *many* of *your readers* would empathise with us.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY D. CLIFT,
Broomfield,
Manchester Old Road,
Middleton, Manchester.
January 13.

Card of destiny

From Dr H. Montgomery Hyde

Sir, In his remarks on libel (January 13) Mr Bernard Levin states that he has always wondered why the Marquess of Queensberry used the words "posing as" in the inscription on his visiting card which he left at Oscar Wilde's club.

The words were inserted deliberately on legal advice, the advice having been given by Queensberry's solicitor, Sir George Lewis, whom he had consulted and who was later to instruct the leading defence counsel, Mr (as he then was) Edward Carson in the prosecution for criminal libel which Wilde launched against Queensberry.

At this date Queensberry planned *to base his defence on* Wilde's writings, particularly *The Picture of Dorian Gray* which, he submitted *through his counsel, showed* homosexual tendencies, thus justifying the words in the phrase quoted. But shortly before the case came on at the Old Bailey evidence supporting the direct accusation reached Queensberry's hands and his written plea of justification was amended accordingly.

Oscar Wilde's son, the late Mr Vyvyan Holland, told me that he had understood from Robert Ross, his father's literary executor, that Queensberry's card had been destroyed. He was surprised to learn from me that the card, which was an *exhibit in the case*, had been preserved in the Public Record Office.

Yours faithfully,
H. MONTGOMERY HYDE,
Westwell House,
Tenterden, *Kent*.
January 13.

Way ahead in Ireland

From Professor Cornelius O'Leary

Sir, On December 29 *The Times* carried an article by *David* Morrison, "Why devolution cannot work in Ulster", which argued that a majority of both communities here is satisfied with direct rule from Westminster. On January 6 (letters), Mr W. S. Moore went further, arguing that the "vast majority of the people of Northern Ireland are content to see direct rule from Westminster continue, not as an expediency but as a permanent *institution*".

Since these statements, if unchallenged, may mislead your readers, I *should* like to point out that while the only positive evidence adduced in support of his case by Mr Mor*rison came from a survey organized* by Mr E. P. Moxon-Browne of this department in 1978 (*viz* that 95.2 *per cent of the respondents agreed* with the politically neutral proposition that laws in Northern Ireland should, as far as possible, be the same as in the rest of the United Kingdom), Mr Morrison chose to ignore the finding of the Moxon-Browne survey most relevant to the subject of his article.

To the question which the numerous political solutions proposed *in* recent years would be "the most workable and acceptable", the largest segment of the sample opted for a devolved government with power-sharing for the Catholic minority—36.5 per cent of the total (39.3 per cent of the Catholics and 35 per cent of the Protestants)—the very solution to which Mr Morrison and Mr Moore are most opposed! Their ideal solution (continuing direct government from London) secured the support of only 13.7 per cent of the respondents.

Other relevant evidence contrary to the integrationist thesis is the fact that of the 150 or so Catholic councillors on the 26 district councils, not one (as far as I am aware) has supported direct rule as other *than a temporary expedient*; and also the fact that in the Westminster election of May, 1979, just one candidate stood as a "Labour Integrationist" in the large constituency of South Belfast, and secured a mere 1.5 per cent of the vote.

Yours, etc,
CORNELIUS O'LEARY,
Department of Political Science,
The Queen's University of Belfast,
Belfast.

Hopes for diabetics

From Dr Arnold Bloom

Sir, My attention has been drawn by parents of diabetic children to your report (*October 23, 1980*) on the portable insulin pump being tried for the treatment of diabetes. *The report quoted* some *frightening* statistics concerning the expectation of survival and health for children *developing diabetes*.

Unfortunately, it is true that when control of the diabetes is poor *and* the sugar in the blood is all the time considerably in excess of normal, dangers to the future health accrue. But in recent years, thanks to intensive research, we have a better understanding of how to avoid these dangers. There are many diabetics in good health today who have been injecting insulin for over 50 years.

Of course, to achieve success in the long term demands of the diabetic self-discipline and knowledge. *It is unreasonable to expect* young people to accept restrictions without understanding the reasons *for them and this is where the* British Diabetic Association plays such a helpful role.

Some 1,500 children in Great Britain develop diabetes every year. Never was the future more hopeful for them. I look forward in my lifetime to seeing diabetes in children controlled without the tyranny of the needle: and certainly when the complications we now see will become more and more a rarity.

Yours faithfully,
ARNOLD BLOOM, Chairman,
British Diabetic Association,
10 Queen Anne Street, W1.
January 12.

Students' benefits

From Mr Derek D'Hooghe

Sir, Roger Frost's letter (December 10) touches on only one aspect of the Department of Health and Social Security's hostile attitude to students. In the course of one case, lasting over two years, I have discovered an appalling number of examples of what can only be deliberate attempts to prevent claimants from discover*ing their rights, or gross incompet*ence. Under the supplementary benefit regulations *unemployed* people attending college for less than 21 hours a week, and available for work if a job arises, are entitled to benefit.

The local DHSS office refused supplementary benefit to a part-time student on the grounds that he was "... attending a school". It has taken over two years, three tribunal hearings, preparation for a High Court hearing, and significant expenditure of public money in legal costs for the DHSS to admit they were wrong, and yet the case is still not settled. During this period the student sought to claim supplementary benefit, and was informed by the clerk that he was not eligible to apply. When I pointed out to the clerk that every citizen had a right to apply for benefit, even though the DHSS might subsequently refuse to grant it, I was greeted with the same response. Only after a half-hour argument, reaching the supervisor's supervisor, was an application form reluctantly handed over.

Similarly, the appeal tribunal take care to inform appellants of their right to appeal to the High Court on a point of law, but neglect to inform appellants of their free right to have an adverse decision set aside by an appeal to the regional office.

The inconsistency of the DHSS is shown by a letter, signed by the manager, granting benefit to a student studying for 20 hours per week. The following day, another student studying only five hours per *week was refused* benefit, and I was informed that the manager's letter was out of date. Rapid decision making indeed!

The DHSS certainly appear to be doing everything in their power to ensure *that young people do not* receive their rights. The DHSS seem to prefer young people sitting at home, doing nothing *or vandalizing* the city to those trying to increase their employability by part-time study during a disastrous *economic* period.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK D'HOOGHE,
Sidney Stringer School
and Community College,
Hillfields,
Coventry.
January 5.

The first Nowel

From Professor Norman Davis, FBA

Sir, In his article on Hereford Cathedral library (December 22, 1980) Mr Wapshott claims that the earliest Christmas greetings "which can be found written in English" appear at the end of a business letter from Charles Booth between 1516 and 1535. But a generation or so earlier Thomas Betson wrote "To my right synguler good lady, Dame Elyzabeth Stonor" a letter concluding: "Madame, I beseche the blissid trenyte to send you a Mery Cristymas to your hartes ease, and ever to preserve and kepe you in longe helth and vertu. At London the xxij day Discembre."

The letter is no 185 in the Camden Society edition of the Stonor Letters by C. L. Kingsford (1919), who dates it convincingly *1477*. Its special interest is that the now so conventional phrase "Merry Christmas" occurs here long before the earliest quotation in the *Oxford Dictionary*, which is of 1617. There may well, of course, be other cases still unnoticed.

Your obedient servant,
NORMAN DAVIS,
Merton College,
Oxford.
December 22.

Grace note

From Mr Lewis Massey

Sir, Mr Lovett (letter January 12) need have no worries. The official Italian name for Munich is Monaco *di* Baviera (ie Bavarian), even though it is often abbreviated to Monaco.

Yours faithfully,
LEWIS MASSEY,
20 Orchard Rise,
Groombridge,
Tunbridge Wells,
Kent.
January 12.

Coverage of Sutcliffe case

From Mr Tom McNally, MP for Stockport, South (Labour)

Sir, Mr Walter Greenwood (January 13) finds it difficult to follow the logic of my objecting to the publication of the name of an individual prior to his appearance in court. Well, if the Chairman of the Law Examinations Board for the National Council for the Training of Journalists cannot follow the logic, my concern increases.

There is a world of difference between an individual being named after a formal court appearance and his name appearing in the media many hours before any such appearance and being part of and contributing to the build-up of emotions towards a case. The pressure to meet that evening's deadline must *not override the rights of the in*dividual, something I hope Mr Greenwood is emphasizing whilst *training his journalists*.

Yours sincerely,
TOM McNALLY,
House of Commons.
January 14.

Catchphrase

From Miss Brigid Brophy

Sir, I am fascinated to learn (January 8) that, if Mr Millett puts a hook through my lip, drags me out of my element but manages to return me before I am quite dead, he will claim to have made "a peaceable gesture".

Yours truly,
BRIGID BROPHY,
Flat 3,
185 Old Brompton Road, *SW5*.

University standards

From Mr Robert Rhodes James, MP for Cambridge (Conservative)

Sir, I was considerably startled to read your headline, "'Embarrassingly poor' standards at some of the new universities", over an account (January 9) by your admirable Education Correspondent of my speech in Coventry on January 8. Nor did *I* say, as reported, that "Some of Britain's universities are of such poor standard as to be an 'acute *embarrassment*' to the nation".

What I did say—and your Correspondent had a full text of my speech—was that "we have a large and expensive national university structure of very varying quality and standards", and, at the end of a long passage which mentioned some of the disparities and difficulties in higher education as a whole, I said: "We have institutions of higher learning that are the envy of other nations, and some that are, at least in some sectors, an acute embarrassment."

It is quite true that I said that "There is *no question* that *the* actual performance of certain of the new universities has been remarkably, and *worryingly, uneven*", *but* I also stressed that while the euphoria and expectations of the *early 1960s about expanded* higher education had been wildly exaggerated, "we must be careful also *not to exaggerate the sense of* disillusionment and disappointment about the results that is frequently expressed".

To portray what was a long and personal analysis of the difficulties *and challenges* facing all sectors of higher and further education as a *specific* attack on the new universities is a most uncharacteristic distortion, and which would surprise my large Coventry audience of students drawn primarily from those universities as much as it did me.

Finally, as the text of the speech also makes clear, I am not the Government's liaison officer for higher and further education, but my party's.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT RHODES JAMES,
House of Commons.

Demolished almshouses

From Mr S. R. Gayton

Sir, I read with horrified dismay of the destruction of Denton's almshouses (report, January 14). This is a gross outrage. Denton is a most beautiful village and the almshouses one of its showpieces.

Nikolaus Pevsner could devote only 105 photographs to the huge county of Lincolnshire, but one was of these almshouses. This is a tribute to their importance in architectural history. No doubt, the excuse will be the need to balance the books, as though nothing else matters.

Denton is part of the Prime Minister's stamping-ground, not to say the Duke of Rutland's. One wonders what they think of this latest vandalism.

Yours faithfully,
S. R. GAYTON,
81 Glentrammon Road,
Orpington, Kent.
January 14.

Voice from the past

From Lieutenant-Colonel O. R. Nicholas

Sir, I would like to add a footnote to the obituary (January 12) on RSM Brittain. I am not sure that *his voice was the loudest in the* British Army, but it was undoubtedly the most penetrating.

He was, indeed, fair. When one officer cadet dropped his rifle on parade, a mortal military sin, several warrant officers and NCOs converged at the double upon the miscreant, brandishing note books in which to "take his name". They were obliged to slink away when the RSM, lowering his voice to a muted bawl, announced: "Let him alone—he was trying".

He was a great man, not only in size.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
O. R. NICHOLAS,
Roundway,
Langman's Lane,
St Johns,
Woking, Surrey.
January 13.



COURT CIRCULAR

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
January 15: Princess Alexandra was present this evening at a Benefit Performance of *Holiday on Ice*, given for the Olympic and International Events Fund of the National Skating Association of Great Britain, at Wembley Arena.
The Lady Mary Coleman was in attendance.

A service of blessing and remembrance for the lives of Joe and Flora Laycock will be held at Chelsea Old Church on Monday, January 19, at 3 pm.

Birthdays today

Sir Alastair Blair, 73; Air Marshal Sir Robert Craven, 65; Professor Sir Peter Hirsch, 56; Professor A. M. Hunter, 75; Miss Elizabeth Monroe, 76; Professor Sir Frederick Stewart, 65; Lord Thomson of Monifieth, 60; Professor H. W. R. Wade, QC, 63.

Air Chief Marshal Sir John Stacey

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Air Chief Marshal Sir John Stacey will be held in the Royal Air Force Church of St Clement Danes, Strand, London, WC2, at noon on Friday, February 20, 1981.

Those wishing to attend are asked to apply for tickets, in writing and enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope, to Ministry of Defence, AFB Sec, Room 8243, Main building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB, by not later than February 6, 1981.

Guidance on dress will be issued with tickets.

Pavlova celebration at Museum of London

The Museum of London is organizing a Pavlova week from January 27 to 31 to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the death of the Russian ballerina. An exhibition of photographs and costumes from the museum's Pavlova collection will open on January 27 (the museum will be closed on the previous day) and will run until March 22. Admission is free.

There will also be a series of lunchtime lectures, with Dame Alicia Markova talking about memories of Pavlova and Dame Ninette de Valois on Pavlova's legacy to British ballet.

Memorial service

Mr J. Matson
A memorial service for Mr Jack Matson was held yesterday at St Bride's, Fleet Street. Prebendary Dewi Morgan officiated and the Rev George Nairn-Briggs led the prayers. Mr Michael Matson (son) read the lesson and Mr Kenneth Robinson, Master of the Stationers' and Newspaper Makers' Company, gave an address.

Shipwrights' Company

The Shipwrights' Company has elected the following officers for the ensuing year: Prime Warden, Mr D. F. Martin-Jenkins; Renter Warden, Sir Anthony Grover; Second Warden, Sir Charles Alexander; Third Warden, Mr D. S. Clarabut; Fourth Warden, Mr J. E. Neary.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. Ashton and Miss A. N. Roberts
The engagement is announced between John, eldest son of Professor and Mrs J. Ashton, of Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, and Anne Nicola, younger daughter of the late Mr A. C. Roberts and of Mrs G. M. Roberts, of St Anne's Park, Bristol.

Mr I. M. Beck and Miss K. S. Wijesooriya
The engagement is announced between Ian Michael, only son of Mr and Mrs B. Beck, of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, and Kanthi Sriyalatha, third daughter of Mrs S. Wijesooriya and the late Mr B. Wijesooriya, of Kandy, Sri Lanka.

Mr A. C. N. Brodie and Miss G. S. Jones
The engagement is announced between Christian, son of Mr C. A. Brodie, QC, and Mrs Brodie, of Coldharbour, Surrey, and Geraldine, daughter of Mr K. A. Jones, of Kings Norton, and Mrs G. E. M. Jones, of Bromsgrove, Worcestershire.

Mr N. D. Dunn and Miss N. Moore
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs A. H. Dunn, of Berrington Court, Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire, and Nikki, daughter of Mr W. T. Moore, of Carden Cliffe, Malpas, Cheshire, and Mrs G. F. Hill, of Red House, Kingsland, Herefordshire.

Mr E. Foster and Miss H. J. Hill
The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr and Mrs J. E. Foster, Newton House, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, and Julia, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs D. A. Hill, Brockton Park, Shifnal, Shropshire.

Mr J. Hale and Miss S. A. Hemery
The engagement is announced between James, second son of Mr and Mrs B. H. Hale, of Richmond House, Sutton Coldfield, and Susan Anne, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs M. C. E. Hemery, of Henmead Hall, Cuckfield, West Sussex.

Dr R. S. Jones and Dr B. J. Stordy
The engagement is announced between Robin, son of Mrs L. M. Jones and the late Mr W. I. R. Jones, of Rhyl, Clwyd, and Jacqueline, daughter of Mrs I. C. Stordy and the late Mr J. J. Stordy, of Wadhurst, Sussex.

Mr J. W. Kennon and Miss A. J. Mills
The engagement is announced between *John Warton, younger son* of Dr and Mrs R. W. Kennon, of Mobberley, Cheshire, and Ann Judith, second daughter of Mr T. R. Mills, of Wilmslow, and Mrs J. Mills, of Knutsford, Cheshire.

Mr J. F. Prescott and Miss C. V. Milne
The engagement is announced between Fergus, third son of Mr and Mrs W. E. Prescott, of Walk Farm, Tunstall, Woodbridge, Suffolk, and Caro Vere, only daughter of Mrs John Hadfield, of Woodbridge, and Mr Hugh Burden.

Mr W. Pull and Miss A. R. D. Cairns-Terry
The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr S. H. Pull, OBE, and Mrs Pull, of Brook Farm, Pulham St Mary, Norfolk, and Andrea, daughter of Mr and Mrs H. M. Cairns-Terry, of Englefield Green, Surrey.

Mr R. W. Le B. Rickman and Mrs A. M. Turnbull
The engagement is announced between Richard Rickman, of Sunningdale, Berkshire, and Anne Turnbull, of Empshott Green, Hampshire.

Today's engagements

Livery Hall open to the public: Goldsmiths' Hall, Foster Lane, guided tours 12, 1, 3.

West London Antiques Fair, Kensington New Town Hall, Hornton Street, 11-8.

Lectures: Sir Peter Lely in the age of Charles II, by Monica Seymour, Tate Gallery, 1. Geothermal energy and the prospects for Britain, by R. A. Downing, Geological Museum, 6.30. Roman mosaics, by Anne Pearson, 11.30; How Greek sculpture was made, by Susan Woodford, 1.15, British Museum. German and Austrian rococo, by Eve King, National Gallery, 1.

Exhibitions: Bicentenary show of the work of Sir Francis Chantrey (1781-1841), National Portrait Gallery, 10-5. The new spirit in painting, Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, 10-6. Being disabled, the Cooper Gallery, Church Street, Barnsley, 10-5.30. Vivat Osterreich! Austro-Hungarian graphics of the Great War, Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, 10-5.50. Giacometti: sculptures, paintings and drawings, Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester University, 10-5.

Lunchtime music: Organ recital by Mark Dancer, St Paul's Cathedral, 12.30. Recital by singers' ensemble class directed by Margaret Lensky, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Barbican, 1.10.

Sir Francis Chantrey's statue of Lady Theodosia Louisa Hervey, Countess of Liverpool, being appraised yesterday at the exhibition of the sculptor's work at the National Portrait Gallery.
Photograph by Peter Trievnor

Reporting of drug effects criticized

By Nicholas Timmins

The media were criticized yesterday by Dr William Inman, director of the newly established Drugs Surveillance Research Unit at Southampton University, for their reporting of the adverse side-effects of drugs.

He said "premature" reporting could cause public alarm, could damage patients, even leading to unnecessary deaths, and could make further studies to establish the safety of important drugs almost impossible to complete.

"The public has a right to know about the risks and benefits of the drugs it consumes", Dr Inman, until recently principal medical officer to the Committee on Safety of Medicines, said. "It also has a right to expect that this information is correct.

"Unfortunately, as we have *seen several times in recent years*, publicity given to anecdotal case reports or unconfirmed hypotheses published in medical journals, and occasionally to legal judgments based on inadequate data, has sometimes damaged the reputation of valuable medicines and harmed patients."

Some patients on the heart drug, Eraldin, now largely withdrawn, had stopped taking it when the risks were published and had died from sudden withdrawal.

Publicity suggesting that Debendox, used to treat morning sickness in pregnancy, caused birth malformations had reduced its use so much that future studies on its safety were almost impossible. However, the evidence that had been gathered suggested there was no risk, or possibly a protective effect.

No effective drug could ever be completely safe, he said, but most were in practice remarkably free *from serious side-effects*.

Dr Inman was speaking at a press visit to the new unit at Southampton, which has £750,000 of support from the drug industry and the Department of Health. It is to run a pilot study of a new method of monitoring side-effects from drugs which may detect such effects earlier.

The system, described in *The Times* last month, involves collecting prescriptions for the drugs under study from the Prescription Pricing Authority, getting in touch with the family doctor and asking him to report all "events" that affect the patient, new conditions, referral to hospital or accidents.

If any event occurs more often than expected, it can be investigated to see if it may be attributable to a side-effect from the drug. Under the system the doctor does not have to suspect that the drug is responsible. Analysis of the records of up to 10,000 patients may disclose side-effects that the *doctor would not have suspected* but which appear when large numbers of cases are studied.

Dinners

Lord Mayor
The Lord Mayor entertained at dinner at the Mansion House yesterday members of the Court of Common Council, the chairman of the GLC, the Lord Mayor of Westminster, the Mayors of the Greater London Boroughs, the Aldermen, Sheriffs, High Officers of the Corporation of London and ward clerks of the City of London. The Lord Mayor, the chairman of the GLC, the Lord Mayor of Westminster and the Chief Commoner were the speakers.

Company of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
Mr John Holland, Master of the Company of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, presided at a court dinner held yesterday at Plaisterers' Hall. He was assisted by Mr A. W. John, Senior Warden, and Mr P. H. Dobson, Junior Warden. Mr E. L. Richards, the Senior Warden and Mr K. A. Wells also spoke. Among those present were:
Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Thomas Devitt, Air Marshal Sir Denis Crowley-Milling, the President and Vice-President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, Mr S. Kitchen, Professor H. C. Edey, Commander L. Peyton-Jones, the Master and Clerk of the Armourers' and Brasiers' Company, Miss D. J. Marsh, Mr D. Cobbold, Mr B. A. Maynard, Mr D. G. Richards, Mr E. C. Sayers and Mr D. S. Morpeth.

Shipwrights' Company
Dr Denis Rebbeck, Prime Warden of the *Shipwrights'* Company, assisted by Viscount Runciman of Doxford, the Earl of Inchcape, Mr R. Hill, Mr H. H. de C. Moore, Mr F. A. J. B. Everard and the Wardens, presided at a dinner held yesterday at Ironmongers' Hall. Mr A. Greenwell also spoke. Others present included:
Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton, Lord Inverforth, Sir Frank Cooper, Sir John Lang, Admiral Sir Anthony Griffin, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Edward Ashmore, the Masters of the Plaisterers', Butchers' and Chartered Surveyors' Companies, Mr B. P. Shaw and Mr T. J. Parker.

Law Society
Lord Scarman was the guest speaker at the annual dinner of the Law Society's Commerce and Industry Group held yesterday at the Connaught Rooms. Mr W. T. Digby Seymour, chairman of the group, presided. Other guests included:
Mr J. D. Clarke, president of the Law Society, Mr D. A. Marshall, vice-president, and their ladies and Mr D. J. Boyd, chairman of the Bar Association Commerce, Finance and Industry Group, and Mrs Boyd.

Luncheons

HM Government
Mr Peter Blaker, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host yesterday at a luncheon at 1 Carlton Gardens given in honour of the President of the Grand National Assembly of Romania, Mr Nicolae Giosar.

British-Soviet Chamber of Commerce
Mr John Mayhew-Sanders, Chairman and Chief Executive of John Brown and Company Ltd, was the guest speaker at the members' luncheon of the British-Soviet Chamber of Commerce held at the Connaught Rooms yesterday. Sir John Buckley presided. Those present included:
The Soviet Ambassador: Mr E. Manakhov, Soviet Trade Representative in the United Kingdom, Mr V. N. Kelin, Mr L. P. Batov, Mr A. P. Zamyatin, Dr V. N. Cheklin, Mr R. J. French, Mr Gavin Dick, Mr David Johnson, Mr John Roberts and members of the Soviet Embassy, the Soviet Trade Delegation, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department of Trade, the Export Credits Guarantee Department and the East European Trade Council.

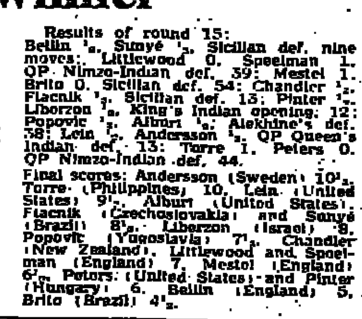
Andersson a popular chess winner

From Harry Golombek
Chess Correspondent
Hastings

Ulf Andersson, aged 29, the Swedish grandmaster, made sure of the £1,000 first prize at Hastings *yesterday with a quick draw in 13* moves with the black pieces against Lein in the last round of the ICL Grandmaster Tournament.

His success was popular and well deserved. He was the only player to go through the tournament undefeated and never looked like losing a game.

With Lein having reached 9½ points, Torre had to beat Peters to win second prize, and that he did in elegant style, finishing off *the game with a brilliant queen* sacrifice. Of the other two decisive games in that round, Speelman returned to something like his true form by winning in good style against Littlewood, and Mestel won a nicely played ending against Brito.



Results of round 15:
Bellin ½, Sunyé ½, Sicilian def. nine moves; Littlewood 0, Speelman 1, QP Nimzo-Indian def. 39; Mestel 1, Brito 0, Sicilian def. 54; Chandler ½, Ftacnik ½, Sicilian def. 13; Pinter ½, Liberzon ½, King's Indian opening, 12; Popovic ½, Alburt ½, Alekhine's def. 58; Lein ½, Andersson ½, QP Queen's Indian def. 13; Torre 1, Peters 0, QP Nimzo-Indian def. 44.

Final scores: Andersson (Sweden) 10½, Torre (Philippines) 10, Lein (United States) 9½, Alburt (United States), Ftacnik (Czechoslovakia) and Sunyé (Brazil) 8½, Liberzon (Israel) 8, Popovic (Yugoslavia) 7½, Chandler (New Zealand), Littlewood and Speelman (England) 7, Mestel (England) 6½, Peters (United States) and Pinter (Hungary) 6, Bellin (England) 5, Brito (Brazil) 4½.

£200,000 appeal for therapy unit launched

An appeal for £200,000 was launched in London yesterday towards the cost of building a new physiotherapy and occupational therapy unit in the grounds of the *Royal British Legion's* hospital at Preston Hall, near Maidstone, Kent.

The Churchill Centre will provide *initial treatment and assessment* with the object of rehabilitating patients so that they may lead as full a life as possible.

Half of the £400,000 cost of the project has been given from the legion's central funds. Work on the building, which will contain a heated hydrotherapy pool and a gymnasium, will begin in April and is expected to be completed by October.

25 years ago

From The Times of Monday, Jan 16, 1956.

From Our Own Correspondent
Bonn, Jan 15.—With the unexpected arrival of a large contingent at the zone border station of Herleshausen in the early hours of yesterday, it is believed that all the un-amnestied Germans serving sentences in Soviet Russia for war crimes or crimes against humanity have now been returned to Germany. . . . Those who arrived were 450 former members of the Wehrmacht, police and SS. Many were sick. Among them was Major Ernst Wilhelm Keitel, the 41-year-old son of the former Field-Marshal Keitel. He was taken prisoner when the German forces in Courland surrendered, and last year his right leg had to be amputated at Sverdlovsk because of an old-standing trouble. Major Keitel said he was never brought before a regular court in Russia, and he attributed his long imprisonment to the conduct of his father who was executed after the Nuremberg trial. He himself was never informed about the fate of his father, but learnt of it from fellow prisoners who tapped out messages to him from their cells.

WRVS conference

Mrs Margaret Thatcher is to make the opening speech to the Women's Royal Voluntary Service national conference at the Bloomsbury Centre, London, on Monday.

Council urged to prosecute over houses' demolition

By John Young
Planning Reporter

South Kesteven District Council, in Lincolnshire, is being urged to prosecute the owners of a group of seventeenth-century listed almshouses which were demolished without consent shortly before Christmas.

Although neglected for many years, the ironstone buildings, in the village of Denton, were considered to be outstanding examples of their kind. They were notable for elaborate gables and "bull's-eye" windows, and were described by Sir Nikolaus Pevsner as possibly the most delightful to be found anywhere.

The council, which decided to serve a repairs notice last month, is to meet on Thursday to decide what action to take.

Magistrates are empowered to impose a maximum fine of £1,000 or six months' imprisonment or both for illegal demolition; if a case is referred to the Crown Court, a convicted defendant is liable to a one-year prison sentence and an unlimited fine.

Welby Estates, which manages the property on which the almshouses stood, said yesterday that the matter was in the hands of its solicitors.



Part of the almshouses at Denton before demolition.

Science report

Dermatology: Burns and skin grafts

By Our Medical Correspondent

Refinements in intensive care techniques have improved survival among badly burnt patients, but the mortality remains high when 70 per cent or more of the body surface has been damaged. In such cases the main difficulty is the lack of suitable skin for grafting; only the patient's own unburnt skin is suitable, and in severe injuries there may be hardly any sites from which skin can be taken.

At present, therefore, badly burnt patients have to remain in hospital for months while a series of skin graft operations is performed, and all that time they risk bacterial infection of their skinless wounds, which can lead to generalized sepsis and death.

A possible answer has been found by doctors at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts. They used a growth factor obtained from mice and modified laboratory methods to speed the growth of skin in cell culture. Starting with a patch of skin smaller than a postage stamp, the new culture methods can produce an area of skin equal to the whole body surface within five weeks.

The new technique has been used in only two patients so far. In each case two patches of skin two centimetres square were taken from the patients within a fortnight of admission. The skin was minced and cultured and some of the subcultures frozen for later use. The newly grown skin, very thin and transparent, was laid on to raw wound areas and covered in gauze. The patients also received some conventional skin grafts. Six months later the two types of graft could not be distinguished from each other or from normal skin. This culture technique should lower mortality and reduce the duration and discomfort of treatment for patients with extensive burns.

Source: *Lancet* (January 10, 1981, p 75).

Violin wood hits a high note

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

The value of wood suitable for mending or making violins took Phillips by surprise yesterday when they secured a bid of £500 for eight 16-inch pieces of seasoned maple. They had been expecting about £100; the purchaser was Moller, a dealer from Holland.

The same dealer spent £2,700 (estimate £2,500) on a violin made by Carlo Giuseppe Oddone, of Turin, bearing his label and the date 1930. The sale of musical instruments totalled £432,460, with 4 per cent unsold.

A sale of twentieth-century paintings, drawings and sculpture at Sotheby's realized a top price of £4,000 (estimate £900 to £1,200), paid for a work by the contemporary Greek artist, Hadjikyriakos Ghika. It is entitled "Laden fig tree" and was bought by a Greek private collector. The sale totalled £50,320, with 12 per cent unsold.

A sale of fine jewelry in New York on Wednesday ran into some difficulties with 32 per cent unsold of the £289,650 total. A sale of silver and plate at Sotheby's Belgravia yesterday did rather better, with only 34 of the 609 lots unsold.

Latest wills

Mr Harold Morton, of Wigan, company director, left estate valued at £174,756 net. After a bequest of £1,000 he left the residue equally between Wigan, Leigh & District Society for the *Blind, Wrightington Hospital, near* Wigan, Spastics Society, RNLI, Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, Marie Curie Memorial Foundation, Chest & Heart Association, and the local Cancer Relief Fund of Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.

Miss Jennie Richardson, of Whitby, left estate valued at £85,703 net. After personal and other bequests she left £32,000 to the Methodist Ministers Housing Society and the residue equally between the National Children's Home, Save the Children Fund, RNIB and RNID.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):
Dawkins, Mr Richard, of Middlesbrough, club proprietor £175,115
Hornby, Diana Cicely Beatrice, of Chelsea £423,671
Hughes, Mr John Henry, of Woodstock, Oxfordshire £351,751
McLeash, Mr John Alexander, of *Northampton £226,123*
Sharpe, Bertha Phyllis, of Oxford £230,599
Spauls, Mr William Ernest, late of Torquay, schoolmaster .. £189,032
Summers, Mr Arthur John Horn, of Newbury £168,508
Tattersall, Mr Brian, of Burnley, company director .. £423,140
Wallace, Mrs Hilda Gertrude, of Poole, Dorset £138,217
Yates, Mr Walter, of Walsall, Staffordshire £278,367

Westonbirt School

Spring Term opens on Sunday, January 18, when Mr H. A. Nickols joins the school as headmaster. Music scholars recital will be on Saturday, February 14, at 7.30 pm and a confirmation service at 2.45 pm on Saturday, March 14. The Senior Dramatic Society presents *The House of Bernarda Alba* on *Friday* and Saturday, March 20 and 21. The term ends on Saturday, March 28.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:
In the Ministry of Defence police, Colonel Stanley Edwards to be Assistant Chief Constable Northern Area, Mr Jack Aspinall, to be Deputy Chief Constable and Mr Cliff Bucke to be Assistant Chief Constable (Operations).

Legal

Mr Christopher Beaumont, Mr Ronald Grey, QC, and Miss Shirley Ritchie, QC, to be recorders on the South Eastern Circuit.

University news

St Andrews
Mr M. J. Kemp, lecturer in the history of art at Glasgow University, has been appointed Professor of Fine Arts.

OBITUARY

SIR WILFRED MORTON

Former chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise

Sir Wilfred Morton, KCB, former chairman of the Board of HM Customs and Excise died on January 7. He was 74. Educated at Hutchesons' Grammar School and Glasgow University, he joined Inland Revenue in 1927 where after a full and varied career he became a Commissioner in 1955. From 1958-65 he was a Third Secretary in HM Treasury before taking up the post of Chairman of the Board of HM Customs and Excise, which he held from 1965 to 1969.

L.J.H. writes:
He began his career in the Inland Revenue, and ended it in the sister revenue department of Customs and Excise, but he looked back with most affection on his time in the Treasury, where the pace and excitement of central policy making were very much to his taste.

Those who did not know him may have thought he would relax his pace when he became chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise. If so, they were very much mistaken. Within a very short time, he had in hand a massive reorganization of the venerable structure of the Department which anticipated many of the Fulton reforms of the civil service generally, and which later proved invaluable in the enormous new task of administering value-added tax.

Such changes are not achieved without treading on the occasional toe, and those who were on the receiving end of his brisk, efficient, and occasionally even ruthless, approach could be forgiven for seeing him as a somewhat aloof figure. Outwardly reserved, he was, to those who had the good fortune to work with him closely, the warmest and most lovable of men, genuinely concerned to test the hard decisions which fell to him as head of the Department in terms of their impact on the hopes and ambitions of the individual.

It was typical of him that among the cares of *high official* position, and even in the height of the Budget season, he could find time to work off duty on behalf of an organization devoted to the welfare of drug addicts and the socially disadvantaged; typical, too, that he took care that very few of his colleagues knew. Outside the office, he had a lively and catholic interest in all the arts, particularly opera, ballet, and the theatre, and enjoyed to the full the simpler pleasures afforded by the gentle English countryside around his Berkshire home and the more dramatic rhythms of the landscape of the Lot in South West France where he and his delightful Australian-born wife had purchased a small property towards the end of his career.

His friends and colleagues will remember a man blessed with a happy marriage and a fulfilled career crowned with quiet and lasting achievement.

MR J. A. SPARKS

Mr. Joseph Alfred Sparks, Labour member of Parliament for Acton from 1945 to September 1959, died on January 12. He was 79.

Born on September 30, 1901, the son of Samuel Sparks, he was educated at Uffculm School and the Central Labour College. He went into the service of the old Great Western Railway as a clerk when he left school, and soon became active in the Labour movement. He was Labour sub-agent for Barnstaple in 1923, and election agent for Taunton the following year. Moving to London, he became secretary of the South Kensington Labour Party. Later, he had experience in municipal politics, and had been an alderman of Acton Borough Council and Middlesex County Council. He was mayor of Acton 1957-58. For 10 years he was President of the London District of the National Union of Railwaymen.

He made three unsuccessful attempts to enter the House of Commons—at Taunton in 1929, Chelmsford in 1931, and Buckingham in 1935. But at the general election of 1945 he achieved a notable victory at Acton, winning a strong Conservative seat by a majority of 7,456. He held Acton at subsequent general elections but lost the seat to his Conservative opponent at the general election of 1959.

In Parliament he was always persistent in advocating the claims of the railway workers. He was keen, too, in promoting private Bills, though with little success. In 1949 he introduced the Hairdressers Registration Bill, which failed to pass, and a similar fate befell, on third reading, a Bill to abolish industrial derating. He was a Government Whip (unpaid) in 1950-51.

He married in 1928 Dora Brent. They had two sons.

MR R. T. LOWEIN

J. O. C. writes:
The death of Bobby Lowein has robbed the ocean-racing scene of one of its most likable and respected personalities, who probably represented Britain all over the world at the highest level more often than anyone else. While still serving as a dentist in the Royal Navy he started racing offshore in 1946 when he was subject to previously unknown levels of discipline and endurance as a fore-deck hand in John Billingworth's unbeatable Myth of Malham. Thereafter boats and crews were to be driven by him to the limit of their endurance, but always with a light hearted touch and by his exercising a quiet matter-of-fact leadership by example.

In 1959 he was voted Yachtsman of the Year. The following year he sailed his own little *sloop*, Denegeld, in the Bermuda Race and came back for more in Drumbeat, Crusade and Prospect of Whitby. He was a member of the British Admirals Cup Team on seven occasions and went out for the Southern Cross series four times.

He was a superlative helmsman and an imperturbable, utterly practical seaman, who thrived on adverse circumstances and bad weather. Many visiting skippers will have wry memories of being outsmarted by his incomparable local knowledge of the Solent.

He lived and died overlooking the River Medina in Cowes, where he played a leading role looking after visiting yachtsmen from all over the world. He was Commodore and later Admiral of the Island Sailing Club. Above all, he was a wonderful shipmate who quietly encouraged and trained dozens of young people, many of them locals, into becoming world-class offshore crewmen. He leaves a widow and two daughters, having lost his only son in an avalanche two years ago.

LADY NORMANBROOK

Sir Robert Lusty writes:
The death, on January 10 at the age of 90, of Mary (Goss) Normanbrook, widow of Lord Normanbrook, PC, GCB, should not pass unnoticed.

Her husband, Secretary to the Cabinet before becoming Chairman of the BBC after his retirement, was regarded by many as the epitomy of protocol and a pillar of the establishment. How quickly he was able to distance himself from all such inhuman rectitude and become revealed as a man of singular liberality, warmth, humour and compassion assisting those at the BBC, was evident after he assumed command.

One was soon able to discern the quality of the remarkable woman who controlled him—unorthodox, witty, always amused and never quite certain of the difference between the BBC and the then ITA. Lady Normanbrook enlivened every BBC occasion which she graced with her presence. No doubt she caused her husband an occasional blush but she was invariably right when discerning, as she thought, a subservience to convenient formality.

PROF KASIMIERZ MICHALOWSKI

L.P.K. writes:
May I add to N.R.'s excellent tribute to Kasimierz Michalowski, a close friend since his Faras excavations in the early 1960s.

Courageous, warm-hearted and endowed with an unquenchable vitality and zest for life, he seemed to epitomize the spirit of Poland. Among those who will miss him most will be the generations of younger Polish archaeologists for whom he became a much loved and venerated father figure. It was largely due to Michalowski's close ties with British scholars that so many of these younger Poles came to be included in British expeditions working in the Nile Valley and elsewhere.

Now that he has gone, one must hope that his Centre for Mediterranean archaeology in Warsaw and his Institute in Podkowa Lesna will flourish as before. Both are indissolubly linked with his name. There could be no more fitting memorial to him.

SIR ROBERT SUTTON

Sir Robert Sutton, eighth baronet, whose death is announced, was 83.

The son of Sir Arthur Sutton, seventh baronet, he was born on January 18, 1897, and educated at Wellington and RMC Sandhurst and saw service with the Life Guards in the First World War. He was invalided out in 1919 and then went out to farm in South Africa. Coming back to Britain in 1924 he farmed in the West Country for many years building up a fine herd of Channel Isle cattle. He hunted all his life with local packs and sat on the district council.

He married in 1936 Gwladys daughter of Major A. C. Gover, MC. They had two sons of whom the elder, Richard Lexington Sutton, succeeds to the baronetcy.

SIR FRANCIS SAMUELSON

Sir Francis Samuelson, fourth baronet, died on January 8 at the age of 90.

The son of Sir Francis Samuelson, third baronet, he was born on February 22, 1890, and educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge. He saw service in the First World War in France and Palestine as a captain in the Yorkshire Hussars Yeomanry. He succeeded his father in 1946.

He married in 1913 Margaret Kendall, daughter of H. Kendall Barnes, of Orpington. She died last year.

Correction

Mr Frith Banbury writes to say that it was not he but the late Firth Shephard who took over the Gaiety Theatre in 1935, mentioned in the obituary of Fred Emney.



THE ARTS

A skilful but over-sentimental approach to death

Tribute (AA)
Leicester Sq. Theatre

Times Square (AA)
ABC Shaftesbury Av.

Blood Feud (X)
Odeon, Kensington

Death as a factor in popular entertainment comes and goes in cycles. The Victorians, as we all know, revelled in mortality, drooling over Little Eva, Little Nell, Little Em'ly, Little Willie and all those other fictional characters doomed to nominal diminution as well as early death. The good were allowed to linger decorously in slow consumptions; the bad might succumb to that favourite Victorian medical myth of spontaneous combustion, which was dramatic and left little trace apart from greasy marks on the floor. Death in any event seemed sweeter in those days when Heaven (or Hell, if that was just deserts) seemed near at hand.

The First World War put death in new and less romantic lights, and the tough twenties preferred life and vitality. For decades death—as a realistic theme, at least, as distinct from the quick, formalized bang-and-pow skittle-felling of westerns and gangster pictures—was practically taboo in the movies. Now, however, death is back again. Perhaps *Love Story*, a decade ago, set off the new cycle. Bob Fosse's *All That Jazz* set the clinical side of dying to music.

Tribute is about the concentration of the mind, soul and character that the imminence of death is supposed to effect. Scottie Templeton, a New York publicity agent, has dedicated his life to the proposition that there is nothing better than laughter; and has not noticed that his resolute refusal to take anything seriously has won him an audience of cronies but lost him his wife and son. A sentence of death from blood cancer stirs him to look for emotional bonds with his son; but it seems far too late to get to know—or even like—this inhibited, priggish, awkward and deeply resentful boy.

The play (and that is what *Tribute* is and remains; the screenwriter Bernard Slade first wrote it as a stage vehicle for Jack Lemmon) is concerned with working out a new relationship between them. The boy overcomes Scottie's fatalistic refusal of medication, in order to give the two of them time to discover respect and love. It all ends sort of happily: it is made clear that Scottie's return to health is merely a "remission"—a favourite new medico-dramatic device.

As a play (and the director Bob Clark does not attempt to hide up the stage devices) it is a fine actors' demonstration piece. Jack Lemmon has enough good one-liners to keep any comic actor happy, as well as a chance to show his range and pathos: he is admirable in the moments when the comic bravado is thin enough to show the real person underneath. It is a dominant performance, but is not allowed to eclipse the supporting players: Robby Benson—too cute, maybe, for a girl-shy role—is an intelligent young actor, often better in control of the sentimental bits than Lemmon himself; Lee Remick is coolly touching as the still loving former wife; John Marley is the loyal and patient partner; the marvellously crusty Colleen Dewhurst plays Scottie's devoted doctor.

There, though, lies the difficulty of the film, for English audiences at least. Everyone is so patently loyal and loving, patient and devoted, with Scottie the warmest, kindest, most lovable human being of them all. The sugar starts to cloy right from the start, when Scottie organizes a subscription dinner at Joe Allen's for a retiring call-girl (and it is a dubious proposition that anywhere in the world one whore's clients would all sit easy at the same table). It reaches excess in the finale, a public tribute for Scottie himself, when there is not a dry eye in the crowded hall as one friend after another proffers his eulogy and Scottie responds with rolling tears and failing voice.

Such moments of unabashed, unrestrained and, it must be said, entirely contrived peaks of sentimentality emphasize acute differences of national temperament; and may make it hard for English audiences to admire the high professionalism of the performances.

The Robert Stigwood Organization, which has rather accurately tracked the course of big business musical entertainment, from *Hair* to *Grease*, may very well be on the right lines again with *Times Square*, which represents a sort of edulcorated punk, toned down to the taste of the nicer kind of kids.

The film is directed by a 33-year-old Canadian, Alan Moyle (who has previously made one feature, *The Rubber Gun*, in Canada) and written by Jacob Brackman, who is remembered as the writer of Bob Rafelson's *The King of Marvin Gardens*. It adopts a favourite strategy for youth films, of inventing a synthetic anti-establishment idol. Nicky is an abandoned, delinquent orphan from the wilderness of 42nd Street; Pamela Pearl is the 12-year-old daughter of the mayor's commissioner appointed to clean up the Times Square area. They meet when they are both patients in the same ward of a psychiatric hospital.

Nicky organizes their escape from the hospital in a stolen ambulance. Swearing blood sisterhood, they set up home on a derelict pier. Nicky's ambition to achieve city-wide notoriety for them is fostered by a disc jockey of uncertain motives, who chronicles their exploits—they include ritual destruction of television sets by hurling them from high places. As the "Sleaze Sisters" their songs and their example attract a growing following of other frustrated teenagers. Their career climaxes in a public concert in Times Square, with Nicky performing her songs from the marquee of a movie theatre, as the police close in.

There is no pretence that it is anything but a fable and fairy tale: it needs a very high suspension of disbelief not to question their economic affairs, their nifty punk pad on the pier, the inability of the police to trace such public characters, the management of the radio station and the sanity of the disc jockey (played by Tim Curry, who can not make much sense of the role but settles for an enigmatic, mephistophelean stance).

Fairy tales are fine, of course it is only questionable, mildly, whether disturbed children and runaways on the New York streets are really the stuff for this sort of fairy tale, or demand more thoughtful treatments. Notwithstanding such doubts, the film is wholly winning, thanks to the central performances—funny, unsentimental, touching. Robin Johnson (Nicky) is a 16-year-old newcomer with a wholly professional manner, gruff Brooklyn speech and a wonderfully vivid, abrasive personality. Trini Alvarado (Pamela) is a 12-year-old professional who retains a charming air of artlessness to hide her skills. These two infants outshine everyone else in sight.

The ferocity and vulgarity that characterize Lina Wertmuller's later films are somewhat mellowed in *Blood Feud*, allowing rather more opportunity for her real sense of the ironic. It is a slighter piece than its historical context—the beginnings of Fascism in the early twenties—might merit: the Fascists are pantomime villains, merely providing a background to a parodic drama of Sicilian lust and feuding.

It is an all-star affair. Sophia Loren is the angry, Magnani-like peasant woman with a gun, dedicated to vengeance on the murderer of her husband, now the local Fascist leader. She is unable to resist either of her suitors: Marcello Mastroianni, in a Mosaic beard, is a rich landowner and impractical socialist idealist; Giancarlo Giannini, her brother-in-law, is newly returned from America where, as a Mafia killer, he has become the quintessential capitalist.

Both fall victim to the Fascists and die together in Sophia's arms as she economically whispers the same message of eternal love into both ears at once. It does not add up to anything more than an expertly played, often funny parody of the Sicilian melodrama. (It is hard to tell, incidentally, if the snatches of Verdi represent parody, homage or plain pinching from Bernardo Bertolucci.)

It probably did not add up to very much more when, on its original American release, it was 13 minutes longer, at 112 minutes. The sub-titles in the present version deserve special mention. Carefully arranged with regard to the composition of the picture over which they appear, they are technically in advance of any I have ever seen.

David Robinson

Father-son relationship: Robby Benson and Jack Lemmon in *Tribute*

Book review

The Theft of the Countryside
By Marion Shoard
(Temple Smith, £9.00, £4.95 paperback)

Beningfield's Countryside
By Gordon Beningfield
(Allen Lane, £7.95)

I read most of Marion Shoard's book on two train journeys, from London to Bath and to Stratford-upon-Avon, constantly glancing out of the window to see how far her dire warnings were being realized. For most of the time I was reassured by the sight of still flourishing hedges and copses, streams and watermeadows. But here and there, particularly in the Midlands, where the ploughed earth stretched away under the winter sun, I began to share her fears.

Readers of the letters columns of *The Times* will be familiar with those fears; namely that the traditional and widely loved appearance of the English countryside is being systematically destroyed by modern farming methods.

Of the passionate sincerity of Miss Shoard's convictions there can be no doubt, but whether the polemic she employs is likely to further her cause is questionable. For her the contemporary farmer is a philistine, impervious to his heritage, activated solely by profit, outrageously subsidized to produce food surpluses which nobody wants. She claims at one point to have talked to farmers, but she grants them neither space for their views nor credit for their achievements. A chapter entitled "The Farmers' Case" is devoted entirely to discrediting Government agricultural policies.

But given that her's is not an objective viewpoint, it is one none the less that arouses disquiet. The statistics she presents, notably on the near extinction of many wildlife species and on the destruction of ancient archaeological remains, are thoroughly alarming. She rightly observes that too much conservation emphasis is laid on wild mountain and moorland landscapes which were never as seriously threatened as are areas like the South Downs, the Norfolk Broads, the Chilterns, and the Cotswolds. The case of Graffham Down, in West Sussex, vividly illustrates how a cherished beauty spot can be ruthlessly destroyed in the face of impotent protest.

The same lament for a vanishing countryside is echoed in the commentary with which Mr Beningfield intersperses his collection of soft, misty paintings and delicate sketches. The pictures themselves form the *raison d'être* of the book, but there is a subdued anger in the text, as when he inveighs against the flailing of hedges—"pure vandalism" and something that a few years ago would have earned its perpetrator instant dismissal.

Conflicting interests, he intimates, are likely to be solved by designating a few outstanding areas of countryside as museum pieces for visitors who want to see what the rest of it once looked like, and elsewhere allowing farmers, industrialists, builders, and developers to do as they please. It surely will never come to that. Or will it?

John Young

Pleasures renewed

The Workshop
Hampstead

Irving Wardle

There are plays that you revisit like a foreign country, and plays you revisit like old friends. And in spite of its Paris setting, Jean-Claude Grumberg's seven-year chronicle of the back-street rag trade (beautifully anglicized by Tom Kempinski) definitely belongs in the second category.

When I first saw Nicholas Kent's Oxford Playhouse production last autumn, my chief impression was of the author's skill in showing a society recovering from the war through the microcosm of one small working group. That interest is still strongly there, in the post-occupation debates on bread-shortages, the relative merits of the Krauts and the Yanks, the queues at the missing persons bureaux, and the steady return to normal with union activism invading the workshop where it will no longer do to make an overcoat with two left arms. As M Leon, the habitually distraught boss, puts it: "We are at the end of the postwar period. We are now in a prewar period."

But more immediate than any public issue is the pleasure of dropping in on the girls again and seeing how they are getting on. It is their personalities, their hostilities and alliances, and their varying survival tactics that give the plotlessly episodic piece its vitality.

M Grumberg's sovereign dramatic quality is the care he takes over trivial detail. These seven women carry the weight of terrible memories, but what counts now is Marie's exasperation at crossing town on a day when the cloth runs out, and group resentment against Mme Laurence (Matyelok Gibbs) for monopolizing the privileged place by the window (even though there is nothing to be seen outside). An eye-scratching row develops out of this during Marie's marriage party; then, in one of the play's characteristic reversals of sympathy, the touchy old prude relents and offers the bereaved Simone a view of the empty courtyard.

By such modest means, affection is built up for everyone in the workshop from the bashful Giselle (Jennifer Piercey) with her weakness for romantic songs, and Sandy Ratcliff's Mimi, armour-plated with dance-hall maquillage and phallic repartee, to the boss and his tough go-between wife (Caroline Hutchinson). The one crucial addition to the splendid cast is Lee Montague whose volcanically comic performance as the Jewish boss redistributes the balance of the production. With that martyred tyrant brandishing the cutting scissors in impassioned hard-luck contests ("Me? Sleep at nights?") this can no longer be described as a women's show.

Its centre, however, remains Lynn Farleigh's Simone, the finisher, first confidently expecting reunion with her deported husband, and finally making do with his pensionable death certificate: a superbly truthful performance in which the public and personal elements are indistinguishable.

Sarah Miles on life's seesaw

Few showbusiness careers in the last twenty years have gone so spectacularly right and wrong in roughly equal measure as that of Sarah Miles. Now on the verge of her forties, she is back in London after a seven-year Californian exile; back to a nomadic life spent largely on a bicycle between friends' flats, back to her 13 year-old son by Robert Bolt, and back to the building of a new career which she intends to spend as a singer rather than as an actress.

"I never really set out to be a classical actress; I wanted to look after horses. But my mother was keen; she named me after Sarah Bernhardt, liked the idea of having a daughter on the stage. There were four of us: Christopher who's a director and has just done the D. H. Lawrence film, Martin who is a painter, Vanessa who works for Capital Radio and me. I was the ugly one. When I was ten I came back from the horses one afternoon and found the whole family on the croquet lawn having the family photograph taken without me. They said I was too busy with the horses, but I think what they meant was that my hair was too untidy. That's what makes you want to be a star. That and hating school; I was expelled from three for rebelling against the teachers, and my son takes after me. People look at us and think that if we could only be removed then life would settle down and be peaceful and tranquil once again, but it never is; only, by the time they discover that, we've already left and it's too late to go back.

"Eventually I got to RADA, and they tried to throw me out of there, too, because I stopped going to the more boring classes, but then I happened to be seen in an end-of-term show by Hugh Beaumont who was the head of H. M. Tennent which in those days was the leading London theatre management, and he gave me a part in a terrible play written by a very good and close friend of his. It was called *Dazzling Prospect*. Can you imagine starting a career at 19 in a play called *Dazzling Prospect*? Anyway, my main job was to take Margaret Rutherford swimming at the public baths wherever we got to on the tour; that and waking her up for her entrance, because she used to sleep a lot backstage. My father was a consulting engineer; God knows what he must have thought, but my mother seemed to think it was all right and from there I got into the Worthing Rep, where I spent a lot of time worrying about my ears which were transparent under the lights.

"But by that time I did have the most wonderful agent, Robin Fox, and one day he told me to come to London and audition for a film called *Term of Trial*, to play the schoolgirl in love with Laurence Olivier. I'd always had his photograph as Heathcliff pinned to my school desk so I thought I could manage that, except when I got to the audition there were 200 other actresses in a queue, all of them blonde. The whole thing looked like being a waste of time and I had a matinée at Worthing to get back for, so I stormed through to the director Peter Glenville and told him he should never have sent for me in the first place and I had better things to do than line up with a lot of blondes, and then rather to my surprise he gave me the job."

A year later came Losey's *The Servant*, then *Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines* and Antonioni's *Blow-Up* and by the middle 1960s she could virtually write her own contracts:

"I still wanted to work in the theatre, though I had very firm ideas about the plays I wanted to do. One afternoon when I was living in a flat in St Pancras the doorbell rang and there on the pavement was Sir Ralph Richardson asking if he could have a cup of tea; after a bit he admitted he'd been sent round by H. M. Tennent to persuade me to do a revival of *The Rivals* with him, but before I could say no he said we had to go see Isabella which turned out to be a sparkling new Harley-Davidson motorbike on which he drove me round London faster than I have ever been driven anywhere in my life. But I still didn't do the play."

Instead she went to Olivier's National, first for a distinguished revival of *The Crucible* and then for a massive row with Noël Coward:

"He was there rehearsing *Hay Fever* with Dame Edith, and I was cast as Sorel which is about the unfunniest role he ever wrote; so determined was I to get at least the occasional laugh off Edith that I began sending Sorel up rotten. Occasionally in the background I'd hear Edith cascading 'Is the girl going to play it like that even when we've got an audience?' but Noël couldn't bear it either. He kept telling me it was a great play, until I reminded him that he'd written it in three days; I think he quite liked me after that, but we all knew I was dead wrong casting and I'd never get right so we agreed to part and then poor Larry had ceremonially to fire me from the National. I've never been much good on teams, either at school or in the theatre."

Instead she went back to the cinema, turned down *Darling* (one of the remarkably few regrets she acknowledges) and then found herself beached by a change in film-making habits:

"Suddenly the Americans didn't want to know about girls walking down the King's Road; it was our own fault, because for years we'd been making these low-budget, introvert, very English films and suddenly American audiences got fed up with miniskirts and began filming their own problems with their own people. We were so hung up on our own class warfare that it never occurred to us the Americans had stopped caring one way or the other."

It was around then, at a party in London, that Robert Bolt first met the wife he was to describe as "a debauched Alice in Wonderland"; there followed a seven-year marriage, during which time Bolt wrote *Ryan's Daughter* and *Vivat! Vivat Regina!* and *Lady Caroline Lamb* for her:

"In a curious way I was wrong for all of them, but I could never persuade Robert that he should find another actress; at one time he was writing the life of Gandhi and I was terrified he'd cast me for that too. Ours wasn't a bad marriage, and it gave me my son who is wonderful, but it all came to a very black end because of a brilliant schizophrenic writer called David Whitling who came to interview me for a *Time* cover story when I was up for a *Ryan's Daughter* Oscar. He stayed around, became my business manager, and eventually they found him dead in my bathroom in Arizona while I was on location there for a Burt Reynolds film called *The Man Who Loved Cat Dancing*.

"That meant an end to just about everything—the marriage had collapsed, papers were calling me David's killer, my parents had to move out of the village they'd lived in all their married life, it was just the end. I figured even California couldn't be worse, and at least I'd be anonymous there, so I went and lived out at Malibu and then gradually retreated further and further up Benedict Canyon until finally I was living in a kind of log hut. But at least I was managing on my own, there were no more reporters under the bed, and I wasn't turning out rubbish films. For the first time in about twenty years I was able to think about what I wanted to do with my life, and what I decided was that I'd never really wanted to be an actress at all.

"I don't mean I won't act again, because I'm just now doing a kind of horror film called *Venom* to pay the bills, but what I really want to do is start singing. I've written a batch of maybe 30 songs, one of which Streisand wanted to buy when I did it on American television, and I'm getting them into a kind of show called *Smiles* which stands for S. Miles. It's a solo evening, but not bits of the classics and all that boring rubbish people usually do in solo shows; instead it's just my life story told through the songs. I tried it out in San Francisco, where they hated it so much I had to have guards at the stage door, but then later in Chicago where it worked a lot better.

"I've always wanted to be Piaf rather than Peggy Ashcroft, and I think maybe now I've got the strength to try the show over here; the trouble is that it really needs to be seen in a piano bar, and the English don't seem to have piano bars, so I'm still working on that one. Louis Malle and Coppola came to see it in Chicago and said I was like Lenny Bruce in drag; you can't ask for a better review than that, now can you?"

Sheridan Morley

Romeo and Juliet
Coliseum

William Mann

People who care about operatic repertory in this country regularly grumble that our companies fight shy of French works, apart from *Carmen* (and, since last year, *Tales of Hoffmann*). The usual reaction is to drag out *Samson et Dalila* to little avail. This time, the English National Opera, in an access of blessed inspiration, has reached in the right direction and selected Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*.

The presence in the company of Valerie Masterson must have made the choice easier, but in any case this is an opera that should never have been dropped from British repertory. The adaptation from Shakespeare is skilful and, in diction, quite loyal. Gounod's music is masterly in establishing situation and character, in harmony and rhythm perfectly characteristic of French music at that time (1867), in melody agog with the freshness and urgency of young love.

The difficulty of finding singers nowadays with any conception of French romantic vocal style and a command of the language is at least partly met at the Coliseum by the English language tradition of the company. Gounod's opera is sung there in Edmund Tracey's new translation, quite intelligibly even when Shakespearian sentiments are not available (as in Friar Lawrence's wedding solo, purest French bourgeois Catholic polyphiloprogenitive propaganda, difficult to take seriously nowadays, even with its solemn and beautiful music, nobly sung by John Tomlinson).

It is not quite true that the piece has been forgotten here for 50 years: I saw it on stage at St Pancras Town Hall in 1958, and have a programme to prove it, though no detailed memories beyond that of succumbing altogether to its beauty and viability. ENO has made it a handsome show to watch and hear, give or take a reservation. Alix Stone's permanent set shows a charming vista of Capulet's house and urban surroundings, lightly delineated, pastel-coloured, airy in atmosphere, with cypresses and distant hills for enhancement. The ghostly father's cell would be better curtained off from this background.

Colin Graham's production deals busily with the rivalry of households, and the Capulet festivity, very tenderly with the love scenes—I was glad to see Romeo climb half-way to Juliet's balcony in justification of "O that I were a glove upon that hand/That I might touch that cheek". John Brecknock looks the part of Romeo convincingly, lithe, blond, and ardent, a stylish, expert singer: would that his tenor voice, so musical, were less dry in quality, better nourished at the top. He does not funk the unwritten but expected top C's, though the heroic ring was lacking.

I was sorry that Stuart Harling made such heavy weather of Mercutio's song about Queen Mab, not least when he acted and sang the fatal duel with such mercurial spirit. Gounod made little of Juliet's Nurse, I thought until now, but Noreen Berry found more in the part than expected, a signal gain. Marie McLaughlin likewise seized gratifyingly on Stephano's brief moment of glory, a serenade followed by a sword-fight, good fun to watch, lovely to listen to.

Hateful Tybalt is strongly acted and sung here by Geoffrey Pogson; Capulet likewise, and well balanced in temperament, by Geoffrey Chard (how I wish he would copy Alicibiades's exercises in enunciation). Louis Frémaux was intelligently chosen to conduct this brave new reclamation of Gounod's opera, since he has given us all much pleasure, and enlightenment, in French romantic music, to go no farther.

His direction on Wednesday was ideally paced for mood and note-values, yet tepidly characterized—witness the fugato of conflict in the introduction, and the inward harmoniousness of the bedroom scene (Gounod's inspired progressions ought to glow like physical sensations), and the duplicate duel scene which should bring us to the edge of our seats. Frémaux perhaps loves the score too much to heighten its contents and risk exaggeration; but he failed to galvanize the ENO orchestra, a body known to be thus conducive (think of the recent *Arabella*). Valerie Masterton's Juliet, wide-eyed, pony-tailed, eager, every phrase new-minted, unafraid, infinitely true and musical, poignant and grand as the drama progressed, kept us all enrapt. May her colleagues soon follow suit.

When the Bough Breaks
BBC 2

Joan Bakewell

Confessions have always been the raw stuff of popular journalism, making us feel smugly superior where they concern human weakness and smugly left out where they concern human sexuality. Or not, depending.

In an altogether different key some amazing things are being said on BBC 2 these days. Or almost said. In this remarkable series, young mothers are coming forward and speaking of the violence in their lives: violence from husbands, violence towards children. They refer to it as "child abuse", a carefully diffused term. What they mean is hitting, thumping, smacking, screaming, pain. Theirs is not a testimony to make anyone feel smug, especially anyone who has cared for small children 24 hours in each day.

The series is in nightly gulps of 15 minutes, and the episodes streak by. If you must have a celebrity presenter, and these series seem to feel it is their only chance of hooking viewers, then John Thaw is as good as any. He sits broadly on a wide chair, exemplifying fictional violence turned to fatherly kindness.

The other regular professional, Joan Court, is a social worker. Blinking with an authoritative shyness in front of the camera, she is quite obviously pure gold when you are confiding privately to her that you are tempted to throw your child from a high balcony. Her's is the model of the non-judging presence.

Otherwise, it is mostly mothers telling each other, and now us, how small children can drive you mad and that when you reach breaking point there are self-help groups, GPs, health visitors, social workers and the NSPCC all waiting to come to your aid.

Characteristically, the mothers were most direct. A member of Parents Anonymous (yes, really) spoke of herself as "a listening ear". On Brighton's Helpline they do not rush to answer the telephone for fear of aggravating panic. They still get 325 calls a year. The professionals tended towards jargon, offering structured programmes and a counselling relationship as their response.

But it was the story of a whole family that was most moving: Betty, regularly knocked about by her husband, Ralph, her son, who had begun to punch his girlfriend, and Liz, the daughter, who spoke of her ruined childhood but who has survived and changed, breaking the strand of violence that links generations. A victory for the new openness about the problem. The series will be repeated on BBC 1 on Monday afternoons. I hope the people who need it are the ones who watch.

Walker/Vignoles
Wigmore Hall

Hilary Finch

The flight of wild geese, white in the sunlight, a swirling gypsy dance, the grief of an exile, the first elusive breaths of spring: all were vividly recreated by Sarah Walker and Roger Vignoles on Wednesday night through a wide range of both musical and verbal language.

Songs by Sibelius, Grieg and Dvorak in their original languages were preceded by Wolf and Schumann in one of the richest recitals of the Wigmore's Czech and Scandinavian series. The delicate precision of Mörike's poetry and the fine nuances of Wolf's setting were caught delightfully by both performers, though Miss Walker's top register was not yet in true, bright focus; but she gave to Schumann's last, sombre and somewhat awkward Maria Stuart songs a moving tenderness and sense of musical purpose.

Not essentially a miniaturist like Grieg, Sibelius could write accompaniments which at times feel almost too large for the poetry they support; yet Roger Vignoles brought colour and bright momentum to Sarah Walker's flexible, burgeoning phrasing of "Spring flies swiftly" and equalled her wonderfully dramatic characterization of "The Tryst", its last line darkly powerful in strong chest voice.

Five Grieg songs were grouped round "Fra Monte Pincio", its broad canvas unveiled with an affective fullness of vocal tone and breadth of line that could turn, in the short dying recollections at the end, into a remarkably firm pianissimo. Warmly espressive, too, was Miss Walker's controlled integration of dynamics and line over the slow, widely arching "Til En", and the sense of movement, light and joyful expectancy in the rowing song from Grieg's exquisite settings of Vilhelm Krag's folk poetry.

With some thrilling sounds from Miss Walker's by now brightly resonant top register, Dvorak's Gypsy Songs were performed with panache but also a movingly projected involvement in the shifting colours of their emotional life.

The Trial
Young Vic

Ned Chaillet

Persistence is the first quality to expect in the theatre companies which exist outside the purse of the Arts Council, and it will be interesting to see which companies will survive from the more than 40 that have had their grants inexplicably cut in the past few weeks. It is odd that those cuts came after a generous 14 per cent increase in cash from the Government, but then it is odd that no grant went to the Cherub Company, which has produced Calderon, Ghelderode and *Two Noble Kinsman*, plus children's plays, since its formation in 1978.

With persistence, the Cherubs have also demonstrated a measure of art, and the faults of their production of *The Trial* are the faults of youth and poverty and not of vision. The director, Andrew Visnevski, has adapted a Polish stage version of Kafka's novel and the designer, Tom Hunsinger, has taken inspiration from the drawings of George Grosz for the ghoulish designs. The result is a production that is not without humour, though the five actors taking 21 parts are not broad enough in their technique effectively to point up the funnier lines. Instead, they are best at exploiting the absurdly ominous tone of Joseph K's arrest for his unnamed offence.

They move on and off stage through a chest-high doorframe and alter their faces with masks. The labyrinths of law, of the aimlessly repressive law of the novel, are suggested by lines drawn on the stage and K himself is a neat, bewildered figure as portrayed by Tom Hunsinger. He lacks the full range of expression that is required of his voice but, as with the other actors, his physical movement often speaks for him, particularly at his final abduction by executioners.

Before the well-suggested nightmare of that moment, the director has played a full range of emotions with his staging, by turns creating sorrow, frustration, comedy and, recurringly, a sexy condemnation of K's susceptibility to women. Repetition is the technique which emphasizes the horror of the situation and which amplifies the hypnotic nature of the very effective storytelling.

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions.

Stock Exchange Prices

Gilts nervous

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 12. Dealings End, Jan 23. § Contango Day, Jan 26. Settlement Day, Feb 2

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BRITISH FUNDS

1980/81 High	Low	Stock		Price	Ch'ge	Int. only Yield	Gross Red. Yield
SHORTS							
99 5/16	89 1/2	Treas	3 1/2% 1979-81	99 5/16	● ..	3.529	13.427
99 1/4	89	Treas	9 1/4% 1981	99 1/4	..	9.826	13.546
97 7/8	91	Exch	8 1/4% 1981	97 7/8	..	8.430	13.828
98 11/16	91	Exch	9 1/2% 1981	98 11/16	● ..	9.688	13.392
94 1/2	85 1/2	Exch	3% 1981	94 1/2	● ..	3.175	13.089
100 1/4	93 1/16	Exch	12 3/4% 1981	99 13/16	..	12.774	12.944
96 5/16	88	Treas	8 1/2% 1980-82	96 5/16	..	8.825	12.552
93 1/2	81 5/8	Treas	3% 1982	93 1/2	● ..	3.209	9.469
102 3/4	90 1/2	Treas	14% 1982	100 11/16	..	13.904	13.347
94 1/16	85 5/8	Treas	8 1/4% 1982	93 7/8	-1/16	8.788	12.991
94 3/16	85 1/4	Exch	9 1/4% 1982	93 7/8	-1/16	9.854	13.417
93 1/4	84 1/8	Exch	8 3/4% 1983	92 3/4	..	9.436	13.041
87 1/4	76 1/2	Exch	3% 1983	86 11/16	+1/16	3.483	10.582
98 1/4	85 3/4	Treas	12% 1983	97 3/8	-1/16	12.324	13.436
93 1/2	84 1/8	Treas	9 1/4% 1983	92 1/4	● -1/16	10.027	12.994
102 1/2	94 1/4	Exch	13 1/2% 1983	100 1/4	-1/16	13.466	13.378
93 3/4	84 1/8	Exch	10% 1983	92 1/4	-1/16	10.840	13.292
84 1/4	76 1/4	Fund	5 1/2% 1982-84	84 5/8	+1/8	6.499	11.723
97 11/16	86 7/8	Exch	11 1/4% 1984	94 7/8	● -1/16	11.858	13.344
104 5/16	94 1/2	Exch	14% 1984	101 11/16	-3/16	13.766	13.348
78 3/4	68 3/4	Exch	3% 1984	78 3/4	..	3.810	10.551
99 5/8	88	Treas	12% 1984	96 3/8	-1/4	12.451	13.248
109 3/4	97 5/8	Treas	15% 1985	104 7/8	-1/4	14.302	13.380
73 1/2	68 15/16	Treas	3% 1985	73 3/4	-1/16	4.068	10.844
MEDIUMS							
103 1/4	89 1/2	Exch	12 1/4% 1985	96 13/16	-1/4	12.653	13.142
97 1/8	93 1/2	Exch	11 3/4% 1986	96 1/8	-1/4	12.492	13.394
89 7/8	78 7/8	Treas	8 1/2% 1984-86	84 7/8	-1/4	10.030	12.432
105 5/8	90 5/8	Exch	13 1/4% 1987	98 1/2	● -1/4	13.421	13.578
81 1/2	70 1/4	Fund	6 1/2% 1985-87	78 5/8	-1/4	8.412	11.709
97 1/4	91 1/8	Treas	12% 1987	94 1/4	-1/4	13.070	13.894
83	71 7/8	Treas	7 3/4% 1985-88	77	● -1/4	10.037	12.762
64 1/8	54 7/8	Trans	3% 1978-88	61 1/2	-3/8	4.888	10.632
98	82 3/4	Treas	11 1/2% 1989	91 1/8	-3/8	13.254	14.301
66 1/4	57 3/4	Treas	5% 1986-89	64	-3/8	7.972	11.996
104 1/4	89 1/4	Treas	13% 1990	95 1/4	-1/2	13.654	13.958
82	69 1/2	Treas	8 1/4% 1987-90	75 3/4	-1/2	10.995	12.907
96 1/4	81 7/8	Treas	11 3/4% 1991	86 1/2	-5/8	13.615	14.379
66	57 1/2	Fund	5 3/4% 1987-91	63 7/8	-5/8	9.236	12.351
92 1/4	77 3/8	Exch	11% 1991	84 5/8	-5/8	13.394	14.293
102 1/8	86 3/8	Treas	12 3/4% 1992	91 3/4	● -5/8	13.862	14.224
86 3/4	74 1/4	Treas	10% 1992	77 7/8	● ..	12.814	13.959
100 1/2	84 1/4	Exch	12 1/4% 1993	93	-5/8	13.895	14.358
104 1/4	94 1/4	Exch	13 1/2% 1993	98 5/8	-5/8	14.307	14.522
100 1/8	84 7/8	Treas	12 1/2% 1993	90 5/8	-5/8	13.844	14.188
66 1/4	54 1/4	Fund	6% 1993	62 1/4	-5/8	9.961	12.266
107 5/8	92 7/8	Treas	13 3/4% 1993	96 1/4	-5/8	14.271	14.351
115	96 1/2	Treas	14 1/2% 1994	105 7/8	-5/8	14.438	14.430
104 1/4	95 7/8	Exch	13 1/2% 1994	97 3/4	-5/8	14.264	14.411
100 5/8	85 1/2	Exch	12 1/2% 1994	94 1/8	-5/8	14.032	14.327
81 1/4	60 1/2	Treas	9% 1994	74 1/4	-3/4	12.362	13.363
102 3/4	81 1/4	Treas	12% 1995	86 5/8	● -1	13.847	14.220
50 1/4	42 3/4	Gas	3% 1990-95	48 1/8	-1/2	6.314	9.965
86 1/4	72 5/8	Exch	10 1/4% 1995	77 1/8	● -7/8	13.270	13.947
LONGS							
98 5/8	81 5/8	Treas	12 3/4% 1995	93 1/8	-1	14.010	14.229
109 1/4	94 1/8	Treas	14% 1996	97 1/8	● -1	14.378	14.439
81 3/4	67 5/8	Treas	9% 1992-96	74 5/8	-7/8	12.529	13.380
118 1/4	93 3/4	Treas	15 1/4% 1996	107 1/8	-1	14.664	14.586
106	89 3/4	Exch	13 1/4% 1996	95 7/8	-1	14.147	14.292
60 1/4	41 1/4	Rdmptn	3% 1986-96	48 1/8	-3/8	6.348	9.553
105 3/4	88 3/4	Treas	13 1/4% 1997	93 5/8	● -1	14.115	14.238
87 7/8	74 1/4	Exch	10 1/2% 1997	77 7/8	● ..	13.316	13.827
80 1/4	65 7/8	Treas	8 3/4% 1997	73 1/2	-7/8	12.461	13.219
69 1/2	54 5/8	Treas	6 3/4% 1995-98	60 5/8	-7/8	11.399	12.591
121 3/4	101	Treas	15 1/2% 1998	111 1/4	-1/4	14.529	14.445
98 1/8	83	Exch	12% 1998	87 1/4	-1	13.973	14.196
83 1/4	69 3/4	Treas	9 1/2% 1999	74 1/4	-7/8	12.803	13.313
101 1/2	82 7/8	Exch	12 1/4% 1999	91 1/8	-1	14.022	14.208
88 1/4	75 1/4	Treas	10 1/2% 1999	79 7/8	-7/8	13.430	13.786
104	92 3/4	Treas	13% 2000	92 3/4	-1	14.080	14.179
110 5/8	94 1/8	Treas	14% 1998-01	99 7/8	-1	14.319	14.347
98 1/8	80 3/4	Exch	12% 1999-02	86 5/8	● -1	13.881	14.021
108 7/8	91	Treas	13 3/4% 2000-03	96 5/8	● -1	14.180	14.207
97 1/4	78 3/4	Treas	11 1/2% 2001-04	83 1/4	-1	13.770	13.894
42 1/2	34 1/8	Fund	3 1/2% 1999-04	38 1/2	-1/2	9.097	10.713
101 7/8	86	Treas	12 1/2% 2003-05	92	-1	13.870	13.935
73	59 1/4	Treas	8% 2002-06	67	-3/4	12.359	12.659
96 1/8	79 3/4	Treas	11 3/4% 2003-07	85 1/4	● -1	13.753	13.833
108 3/4	94 1/2	Treas	13 1/2% 2004-08	100 5/8	-1	14.026	14.040
53 1/8	43	Treas	5 1/2% 2008-12	49 1/4	-3/4	11.621	11.970
70 1/4	57 1/8	Treas	7 3/4% 2012-15	62 1/8	● -3/4	12.390	12.510
101 1/4	84 1/2	Exch	12% 2013-17	91	-1	13.353	13.363
35	29 1/4	Consols	4%	31 1/4	● -1/8	12.826	..
34 1/8	28 3/4	War Ln	3 1/2%	30 1/8	-1/8	11.596	..
38	32 1/2	Conv	3 1/2%	37	..	9.695	..
26	21 1/2	Treas	3%	24 1/2	-1/4	12.748	..
22 7/8	19 1/8	Consols	2 1/2%	20 1/2	-1/4	12.314	..
21 7/8	17 3/4	Treas.	2 1/2% Aft 75	20 1/8	-1/4	12.805	..

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

1980/81 High	Low	Stock		Price	Ch'ge	Int. only Yield	Gross Red. Yield
92 1/2	81 1/2	Aust	5 1/2% 81-82	92 1/2	..	6.048	13.991
85 1/4	76	Aust	6% 81-83	83 7/8	+1/8	7.216	13.261
98 1/4	87 1/2	Aust	7% 79-81	98 1/4	+1/4	7.314	14.618
83 1/2	72 5/8	E Africa	5 3/4% 77-83	83	..	6.967	14.638
52	46 1/4	Hungary	4 1/2% 1924	51	..	..	..
89 1/2	79 1/4	Ireland	7 1/2% 81-83	86 1/4	..	..	..
230	175	Japan Ass	4% 1910	190	..	..	..
79	59	Japan	6% 83-88	79	+5	..	..
93 1/2	80	Kenya	5% 78-82	93 1/2	+1/4	5.529	14.846
93	81 1/4	Malaya	7 1/2% 78-82	89 1/2	● ..	8.336	14.122
67 3/4	58	N Z	7 1/4% 88-92	63 3/4	..	11.416	13.657
82 1/4	72 1/4	N Z	7 1/4% 83-86	78	..	9.689	13.546
150	147 3/4	Peru	6% Ass	150	..	..	..
97 1/4	87 1/2	S Africa	9 1/2% 79-81	97 1/4	..	..	..
163	95	S Rhd	2 1/2% 65-70	121	+2	..	..
93	53	S Rhd	4 1/2% 87-92	75	+1	..	..
168	145	S Rhd	6% 78-81	150	..	..	..
36	34	Spanish	4%	36	..	..	..
92 3/4	82 1/4	Tang	5 1/2% 78-82	92 7/8	+1/8	6.335	15.102
94	89 1/4	Uruguay	3 1/2%	94	..	..	..

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

1980/81 High	Low	Stock		Price	Ch'ge	Int. only Yield	Gross Red. Yield
24	21	L C C	3% 1920	23 1/4	..	13.307	..
84	73 1/4	L C C	5% 80-83	83 3/4	..	5.968	13.733
94 1/2	82 3/4	L C C	5 1/2% 77-81	94 1/2	+1/8	5.818	14.423
83 1/2	70 1/4	L C C	5 1/2% 82-84	78 3/4	..	6.962	12.325
71 1/4	60 1/2	L C C	5 1/2% 85-87	68	..	8.146	13.165
71 1/4	60 1/2	L C C	6 3/4% 88-90	66 1/2	..	10.153	13.019
66 1/2	56 1/4	G L C	6 3/4% 90-92	61 1/4	● ..	10.918	13.235
93 1/2	81 1/4	G L C	9 1/2% 80-82	93 5/8	..	10.168	13.872
98 3/4	89	G L C	12 1/2% 1982	98 1/4	..	12.715	13.962
98 1/2	85 3/4	G L C	12 1/2% 1983	97 1/4	● ..	12.860	13.612
90 5/8	81 1/2	C of L	6 1/2% 80-82	90 5/8	..	7.190	13.864
83 3/4	71 5/8	Ag Mt	7 1/2% 81-84	82 3/4	..	9.362	13.916
69 1/4	58	Ag Mt	7 1/2% 91-93	65 3/4	..	12.251	14.046
68	55 1/2	Ag Mt	6 3/4% 85-90	64	..	10.727	13.966
94 1/4	83 7/8	Croydon	6 3/4% 78-81	94 1/4	..	7.160	14.236
92 3/4	83 1/4	Glasgow	9 1/4% 80-82	92 5/8	..	9.980	13.942
100	92 5/8	Liverpl	13 1/2% 1981	99 3/4	● ..	13.543	14.186
30	24 1/4	Met Water B	34-03	29	..	10.753	12.951
82	70	N I	7% 82-84	80 1/4	..	8.666	14.481
86 1/4	75 1/2	N I Elec	6 1/2% 81-83	86 1/4	..	7.534	14.229
77 1/2	67 5/8	Swark	6 3/4% 83-86	73 1/2	..	9.332	13.834

DOLLAR STOCKS

1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
13 7/8	7 15/16	Brascan	£12 7/8	-1/4	60.5	4.9	23.9
20 1/2	6 1/4	BP Canada	£13 9/16	-1/8	..	..	..
19	13 1/4	Can Pac Ord	£14 1/8	-1/8	68.5	4.8	5.8
13 5/8	9 3/8	El Paso	£10	-1/4	41.7	4.2	18.8
38 3/4	31 1/4	Exxon Corp	£32 5/8	-1/8	..	..	..
29 3/4	10 3/4	Fluor	£23 9/16	-1/16	34.6	1.5	27.7
27 7/8	14 7/16	Hollinger	£17	+1/16	..	..	..
14 5/32	7 1/4	Hud Bay Oil	£8 1/8	..	28.9	3.6	15.3
790	322	Husky Oil	698	+3	..	..	..
14 1/2	7 13/16	INCO	£8 3/32	-1/32	29.8	3.6	25.4
10 1/32	4 21/32	IU Int	£7 27/32	-1/16	4.6	0.6	10.0
12 5/8	8	Kaiser Alum	£9 13/16	-7/16	58.4	6.0	4.3
490	135	Massey-Ferg	135	-30	..	..	..
748	450	Norton Simon	c656	+6	45.1	0.1	..
34 3/8	22 5/8	Pan Canadian	£33 1/2	..	..	..	..
257	148	Steep Rock	230	-7	..	..	..
11 3/4	7 13/16	Trans Can P	£8	-1/8	..	..	..
19 1/4	9 3/8	US Steel	£10 1/8	+1/8	..	..	..
31 1/2	11 3/8	Zapata Corp	$27 3/8	+3/8	34.4	1.2	..

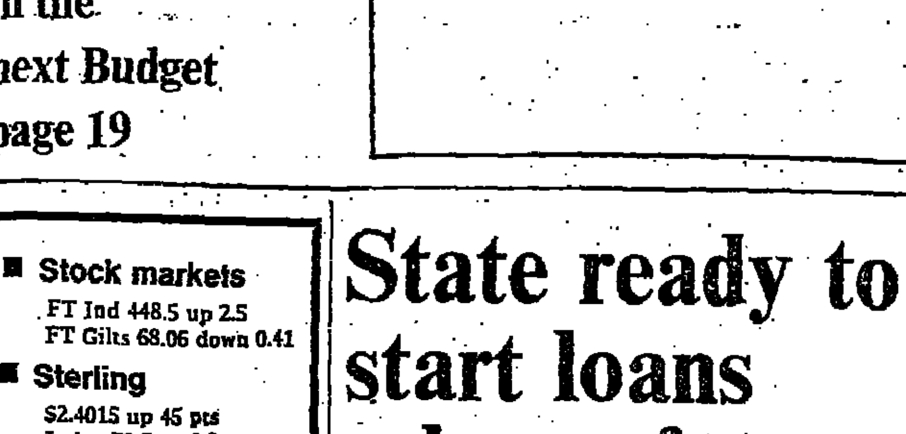
BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
282	184	Alexs Discount	274	..	24.3	8.9	..
428	293	Allen H & Ross	373	+5	30.7	8.2	15.4
128	96	Allied Irish	111	-2	8.2	7.4	4.8
18	13	Ansbacher H	16 1/2	-1/4	0.2	1.3	20.1
249	184	Arb-Latham	249	..	15.7	6.3	15.8
271	203	ANZ Grp	271	+3	11.9	4.4	6.9
12 7/8	9 3/4	Bank America	£11 5/8	-1/4	60.1	5.2	6.8
358	278	Bk of Ireland	278	-5	22.7	8.2	4.9
11	6	Bk Leumi Israel	7	..	0.7b	9.7	13.7
180	100	Bk Leumi UK	150	..	12.7	7.1	14.2
379	134	Bk of NSW	152	+3	8.9	5.9	5.8
324	236 1/2	Bk of Scotland	289	..	22.5	7.8	3.8
485	327 1/2	Barclays Bank	410	-8	26.4	6.4	3.3
435	274	Brown Shipley	370	..	18.6b	5.0	11.5
394	263	Cater Ryder	349	+2	30.0	8.6	..
105	61	Charterhse Grp	86	..	6.1	7.1	9.3

SHIPPING

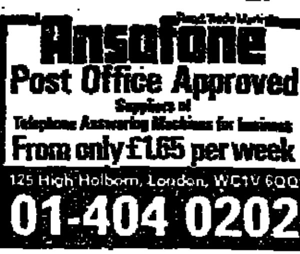
1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
346	178	Brit & Comm	292	..	27.2	6.1	7.3
208	116 1/2	Fisher J.	159	..	2.9	1.8	13.0
41	31	Jacobs J. I.	38 1/2	..	3.1	8.8	..
137	85 1/2	Ocean Trans	115	-1/2	12.7	11.1	13.7
137	105	P & O 'Dfd'	114	-2	10.0	8.8	7.0

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Tax options in the next Budget page 19

THE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWS



- **Stock markets**
  FT Ind 448.5 up 2.5
  FT Gilts 68.06 down 0.41
- **Sterling**
  $2.4015 up 45 pts
  Index 79.7 up 0.3
- **Dollar**
  Index 86.8 unchanged
  DM 1.9990 up 65 pts
- **Gold**
  $573.50 up $14
- **Money**
  3 month sterling 14¼-14⅜
  3 month Euro $ 18⅛-18⅜
  6 month Euro $ 17⅛-17

IN BRIEF

Bonn to lead Turkish credit talks for OECD

West Germany will lead the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development efforts to assemble a further credit aid package to Turkey this year, after leading similar efforts in 1979 and 1980, Mr Turgut Ozal, the Turkish deputy prime minister, said in Bonn.

He made the announcement after discussing Turkey's economic and political situation with Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister and senior government officials.

Turkey seeks OECD credit in excess of $1,300m (nearly £542m) this year, compared with $1,600m pledged by the organisation in 1980.

Massey solution

Barclays Bank is optimistic that bankers will reach agreement by the weekend on the Massey-Ferguson refinancing through an interest forgiveness plan, a Massey spokesman said in London. The total of loans under discussion is said to be $Can1,500m (about £528m).

Kuwait crude find

The state-owned Kuwait Oil Co has apparently discovered a major oil field in the northern part of the Gulf Sheikdom, near the existing Subriya fields. It is said to be "a very heavy oil"

Plant to employ 600

Panel Plus Industries, manufacturers of self-assembly furniture, are to open a new factory at Peterborough with the creation of 600 new jobs.

1,400 on short time

A slump in the sale of men's shoes has forced the British Shoe Corporation to put 1,400 workers at their factories in Kettering and Northampton on a four day week, starting from today. This brings the total of short time shoe workers in Northamptonshire to 14,000 with nearly 2,000 being made redundant.

Unit trust sales up

Unit Trust sales in 1980 were the industry's best ever at £531m, but repurchases—sales of units back to the managers—were also a record at £424m, leaving net sales of £108m, well below the industry's high of £258m in 1968.

More petrol rises

Pump prices of BP and Texaco petrol are to rise by around 5p per gallon. Both companies followed Shell, Esso and Mobil yesterday in increasing the price of their wholesale deliveries from midnight last night. The cost of heating oils is also up.

Grand Met profits

Grand Metropolitan, the food, drinks and hotels conglomerate headed by Sir Maxwell Joseph increased profits by nearly 12 per cent to £152m last year.

Financial Editor, page 19

Wall Street higher

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 3.50 points up at 969.97. The $-SDR was 1.26776. The £ was 0.528454.

State ready to start loans scheme for small businesses

By Bryan Appleyard

The Government is now ready to introduce an experimental loan guarantee scheme for small companies. It will involve up to 5,000 Government-guaranteed bank loans to small companies in the financial year 1981-82.

The clearing banks are to be told next week and the plan is likely to be announced in the Budget, although there are some suggestions that it could become official before that.

At this stage the loans appear to be planned on a nationwide first-come-first-serve basis and both the demand and risks involved will be used to assess whether loan guarantees should be introduced on an unlimited basis.

It is almost certain that under the experimental scheme the banks will be expected to take 25 per cent of the risk with the remaining 75 per cent underwritten by the Government.

The idea behind loan guarantees is to help small businesses which require loan capital but which fall short of bank lending criteria of security or balance sheet ratios.

Small business campaigners have been arguing for years that perfectly viable businesses have been denied capital and that the Government should be ready to shoulder some of the risk by underwriting bank loans.

During the last Labour Government Mr Harold Lever first proposed the idea, but it ran into concerted opposition from civil servants in the Department of Industry. The DoI was concerned at the administrative burden which would be created by such a scheme and at the possibility of excessively high levels of borrowings among small companies.

Under the Conservatives the prime objection has been that such a scheme would involve an unacceptable degree of intervention in industry and an increase in the quantity of government-backed paper in circulation with the resultant upward pressure on interest rates.

However, consistent pressure from the small business lobby has been paying dividends. Mrs Thatcher herself appeared to have changed her mind on the issue some weeks ago after initially opposing the idea and now Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Industry, is understood to have accepted that the scheme should be given a trial.

One big consideration is that a full-blooded loan guarantee scheme could inject between £1,000m and £10,000m of new capital into small companies and create substantial new employment.

The latest move follows some weeks of indications that civil servants were now taking a more positive view of the idea.

Officials from the Treasury, the Department of Industry and from the DoI's small business unit have all been pursuing extensive consultations with small business experts, all of whom commented that the atmosphere had changed radically in recent weeks.

One consistent force against the idea from the beginning has been the banks. However, since last summer they appear to have accepted the possibility of the scheme and the weakening of their opposition may well have played an important part in this latest development.

In another development for small businesses Mr John Page, (Harrow West, Conservative) has tabled a private member's bill which would create a special Minister of State for Small Businesses.

Although this bill as such is unlikely to get a hearing, Mr Page believes the Government is in favour of the idea in principle

Lloyds & Scottish joins race to buy UDT

By Roman Eisenstein
Banking Correspondent

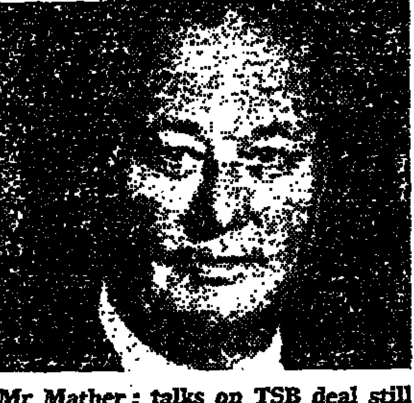
Lloyds & Scottish, the finance house jointly controlled by Lloyds Bank and the Royal Bank of Scotland, is making a £106m bid in cash and shares for United Dominions Trust, the once troubled finance house which is itself trying to merge its consumer credit interests in Britain with the Trustee Savings Banks.

Mr George Duncan, chairman of Lloyds & Scottish, said yesterday that his company had to act unilaterally without prior discussions. There had been rumours of an impending bid and the UDT shares had moved ahead, he said. They were 42p before the announcement but earlier in the week before the rumours started they stood at 37p.

Under the terms proposed by Lloyds & Scottish, shareholders in UDT would receive 43.36p in cash and 11.64p in ordinary shares of Lloyds & Scottish for each UDT share. This values each UDT share at 55p, compared to an asset value of 51p.

Lloyds & Scottish intends to raise more than £80m by issuing shares to Lloyds Bank and the Royal Bank of Scotland. Each bank owns nearly 40 per cent of Lloyds & Scottish, and by taking up shares it will maintain the present level of shareholdings.

Last May, Lloyds & Scottish did a similar money raising exercise when it



Mr Mather: talks on TSB deal still continuing



Mr Duncan: market rumours triggered unilateral action

bought Talcott Factors, of the United States, for £15m and raised the money from its two main shareholders.

If the deal goes ahead, the joint group would become one of Britain's largest finance houses. With outstanding debts of some £900m, it would be slightly ahead of Forward Trust, which is owned by the Midland Bank, but behind Mercantile Credit, which is owned by Barclays Bank and has outstanding debts of £1,000m.

Mr Duncan said yesterday that the merger "will conform to our philosophy of balanced portfolio. The group together will add quite a deal of strength to both of us". Both Lloyds & Scottish and UDT have substantial interests outside their traditional finance house activities.

Lloyds & Scottish has interests in factoring, tractor distribution, television rentals and computer services.

UDT's main non-finance house subsidiary is the International Commodities Clearing House. This company stands on its balance sheet at £16m, but analysts in the market think it is worth a good deal more. With the proposed extension of financial and gold futures to London, its prospects could be alluring to Lloyds & Scottish, especially as its profitability is counter cyclical to that of a finance house.

Other UDT activities include vehicle hire, construction and engineering.

The profits of finance houses normally fall when interest rates are high and several of them have tried to protect themselves against the cycle by diversifying.

Since last August, UDT has been negotiating with the Trustee Savings Bank for a deal under which it would exchange 75 per cent of its consumer credit activities in Britain for £57m, of which £12.5m would remain in Endeavour, a joint hire purchase company. Talks have not been completed yet because of technical hitches.

But yesterday Mr Leonard Mather, chairman of UDT, said that talks with TSB were continuing. "The TSB deal is still proceeding", he said. Mr Mather stressed that the Lloyds & Scottish approach came as a "complete surprise".

Yesterday a spokesman for Trustee Savings Bank also said that its deal with UDT was going ahead.

The UDT board will be holding discussions in the next few days to decide on its response to the Lloyds & Scottish approach.

Lloyds & Scottish said that the deal was subject to the recommendation of the board of UDT and to details on trading. In fact, with 37 per cent of UDT shares in the hands of Eagle Star and Prudential Assurance, the outcome is likely to be decided by the attitude of these two institutions

Pay cuts demanded over new Chrysler loan

Washington, Jan 15.—Chrysler workers in the United States are being asked to sacrifice $622m (about £259m) in wages, cost of living benefits and company pension contributions.

This has emerged as one of the stringent financial conditions being demanded by the Chrysler Loan Guarantee Board in return for a fresh $400m (£166.67m) cash injection to save the bankrupt car company. Chrysler has also been told to seek a possible merger with another manufacturer.

The board also is insisting that Chrysler try to wrest concessions worth millions of dollars from suppliers and past lenders by the weekend.

Mr Lee Iacocca, the Chrysler chairman said: "It's a super deal".

But Mr Douglas Fraser, president of the United Auto Workers Union, expressed dismay at the terms required for the loan.

"This is the worst economic settlement we've ever made, but the only thing worse is the alternative . . . no jobs for Chrysler workers," he said.

Company officials said that their most difficult task would be convincing the 125 banks and insurance companies that have lent money in the past, to accept preferred stock in Chrysler as payment for $500m in old debts.

Chrysler also would have to convince the lenders to accept 30 cents per dollar as repayment for another $500m.

Under the loan board's conditional approval, Chrysler would have to persuade its suppliers to make concessions totalling $72m over the next year.

Mr William Miller, America's Treasury Secretary who heads the loan board, said Chrysler would have to agree to "commit itself to take all possible steps to obtain an infusion of capital through merger or other means".

Mr Iacocca told reporters the company had been exploring various international ventures, but was not yet ready to talk of a merger.

The loan board has fixed another meeting for today and expects the company to produce assurances that the various concessions will be made by workers, lenders and suppliers.

Mr Miller said that if the assurances were not given the request for aid would have to be referred to the Reagan Administration, which takes office on Tuesday.

But both Mr Fraser, for the union, and Chrysler officials have said they cannot afford to wait that long since the company could run out of cash within the month unless it gets immediate assistance.

They were concerned that it may take Mr Donald Regan, the new Treasury Secretary, some time to become familiar with the problem—possibly more time than Chrysler appeared to have.

Already Chrysler has drawn $880m of the $1,500m in loan guarantees approved by congress.

Formal action by the loan board today would set the stage for final approval being granted by January 31, assuming the incoming Reagan Administration agreed to the extension of further guarantees.—Reuter, AP Dow-Jones.

Chemical workers win promise of shorter hours

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

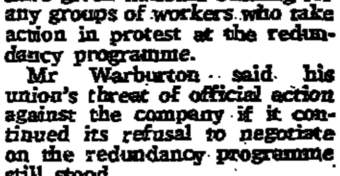
The threat of industrial action in the chemical industry next week was averted last night when employers and union negotiators reached agreement on a shorter working week in two years' time.

The unions had threatened to institute a national overtime ban if the employers refused to guarantee a reduction in working time, which was one of the issues outstanding from last year's pay settlement covering the industry's 60,000 process workers.

Under the agreement last night a 38 hour week, a reduction of two hours, will be introduced in May, 1983. In the meantime process workers will receive an extra day's holiday this year and a further day next year on top of the four weeks' holiday they receive at the moment.

Mr David Warburton, the General and Municipal Workers Union national industrial officer for the chemical industry, said after yesterday's day-long talks: "I am very pleased with the progress we have made today.

"It is a significant improvement on the employers' previous position which was to offer a reduction in the working week from 1984."



Last night's agreement will now be put to regional conferences of the union and will go before the union's national chemical conference for final approval at the end of the month, but with the suport of the negotiators, the deal is certain to be accepted.

At the same conference, delegates will draw up the pay claim to submit to the Chemical Industries Association for this year's pay round.

In another development, union officials and shop stewards from the GMWU and other unions are to meet Fisons' management today to discuss the company's plans to make 1,000 of its 4,000 workforce redundant in the fertilizers' division.

The two main unions, the GMWU and the white collar Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, have given national backing for any groups of workers who take action in protest at the redundancy programme.

Mr Warburton said his union's threat of official action against the company if it continued its refusal to negotiate on the redundancy programme still stood.

ASTMS argues that investigations of the company's operations, which have been carried out with senior managers at Fisons, have concluded that the company's plans are too drastic. The union says that changes are needed and would be accepted, but it is insisting on such changes being negotiated with the workforce.

Voting will be close, Lonrho says

By Philip Robinson

Voting will be very close on whether House of Fraser can sell and lease back D. H. Evans, the London store, for £29m, Lonrho, the trading company which is resisting the move and which has forced next Tuesday's extraordinary meeting on the issue, claimed yesterday.

Lonrho, with 45 million shares of its own, stressed that a large abstention vote was likely from Fraser's 36,000 shareholders, who hold a total of 150 million shares.

Mr Robert Dunlop, a Lonrho director, said last night: "We have been surprised at the number of institutions who have investments in both Fraser and Lonrho, who have rung up saying they will not be voting.

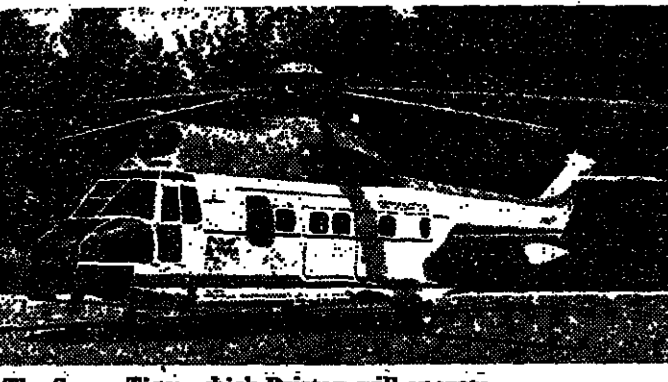
"Legal and General has written saying it will abstain with its 2.5 million shares because it is involved with the deal."

Institutions are estimated to hold around 40 per cent of the Fraser equity. Mr Dunlop added: "If about 120 million votes are cast, Lonrho will get 60 million. If 115 million votes come out, then we and Fraser will get about 57 million each.

"The total number of votes at the last annual meeting was 128 million. You always get more people voting at those meetings rather than extraordinary meetings over this rather dull issue."

Lonrho was urging its supporters yesterday to send in their proxy votes by today. It is customary for the proxy deadline to be noon, 48 hours before the start of the meeting at which they are to be cast. But it is understood that the Clydesdale Bank, House of Fraser registrars, is preparing to accept them up to 11.30 am on Sunday.

House of Fraser is reported to be claiming that it has the backing of 68 million votes



The Super Tiger which Bristow will operate.

£83m helicopter contract

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

The Bristow helicopter group yesterday concluded arrangements to buy 35 332L Super Tigers from Aerospatiale, the French manufacturer, at a cost, with spares and equipment, of £83m—claimed to be the biggest civil order in the commercial helicopter industry.

Bristow, based at Redhill, Surrey, will use the aircraft, due to be delivered from 1982, for servicing the oil and gas exploratioin industry in the North Sea and on other contracts throughout the world.

The group said: "The decision to purchase the 332L was taken following a comprehensive evaluation of the aircraft, with particular emphasis on its performance, technical qualities and cost effectiveness.

"With this latest purchase, following previous orders for Alouette 3, Astar, Twinstar and Puma J helicopters, the Bristow group becomes the largest investor in Aerospatiale civil products, and maintains its position as a leading worldwide operator.

Bristow's choice of a French machine is, in fact, a severe setback for the United States helicopter industry which had hoped that the group would buy the Boeing Vertol Chinook.

Gilts upset by higher PSBR fears

By John Whitmore
Financial Correspondent

While official figures confirming a slowdown in monetary expansion in December were much in line with City expectations yesterday, the ministerial warning that the public sector borrowing requirement was likely to exceed £11,500m in the present financial year upset the gilt-edged market, and prices of long-dated stocks generally fell by up to £1.

Although the market had been expecting that the PSBR outcome might well be higher than the Treasury's revised November estimate, some analysts took Wednesday evening's speech by Mr Nigel Lawson, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, to mean that the PSBR might well finish up either side of £13,000m.

The worry for markets is twofold. First, it suggests that the Government is still having considerable difficulty getting to grips with public sector finances. Second, it implies that further large tranches of gilt-edged stock will need to be sold before the end of the monetary year in mid-April.

On the other hand, the market now knows that the Treasury assessment of prospects for the PSBR in 1981-82 are better than had generally been feared, showing an appreciable improvement on the likely outturn for the present financial year.

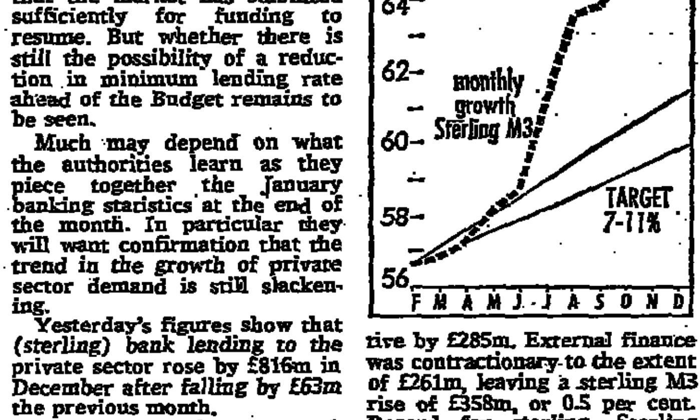
The authorities will be hoping that the market has stabilized sufficiently for funding to resume. But whether there is still the possibility of a reduction in minimum lending rate ahead of the Budget remains to be seen.

Much may depend on what the authorities learn as they piece together the January banking statistics at the end of the month. In particular they will want confirmation that the trend in the growth of private sector demand is still slackening.

Yesterday's figures show that (sterling) bank lending to the private sector rose by £816m in December after falling by £63m the previous month.

A good part of this turnround, may reflect companies switching from dollar to sterling borrowing as dollar interest rates soared. While bank lending in sterling rose sharply last month, lending to the private sector in foreign currency fell by £345m.

The increase in sterling bank lending to the private sector more than accounted for total domestic credit expansion of £761m in December. The public sector contribution was nega-



tive by £285m. External finance was contractionary to the extent of £261m, leaving a sterling M3 rise of £358m, or 0.5 per cent. Record for sterling. Sterling remained buoyant on the foreign exchange markets yesterday (Frances Williams writes). In Frankfurt the pound was fixed at midday at DM4.80, its highest level for nearly five years, and at the Milan fixing it touched a record level at 2,284.5 lira. In London sterling hit $2.4055 before closing at $2.4015, up 45 points.

Financial Editor, page 19
Table, page 20

Mr Carter's Budget bequest to the new Administration

From Patrick Brogan,
Washington, Jan 15

President Carter published his last Budget today, for the year beginning in October 1981, known as fiscal 1982. It projects a deficit of $27,500m (£11,458m) followed by $8,000m in 1983 and a surplus of $32,000m in 1984.

The usefulness of these projections can be measured by comparing them with those issued a year ago. Mr Carter then projected a deficit for 1981 of $16,000m, and surpluses of $5,000m in 1982 and $25,000m in 1983. The deficit for the current year is now estimated at $55,200m, more than three times the projected figure; and the end has not yet come.

American budgets are all political, Mr Carter is leaving office next week and this budget is his bequest to Mr Reagan. The outgoing president has set up a budget that, in theory, could balance by the end of his successor's term, but only if he were to break all his promises to cut taxes.

Mr Carter includes in today's budget a supplemental request for $6,300m for defence, which would increase spending in this area in real terms by a total of 8 per cent over last year. Defence spending, under Mr Carter's proposals, would then continue to rise by 5 per cent a year from 1982 onwards. Mr Reagan, who has promised great increases in defence spending, is going to find it difficult to do any better.

The budget for 1982 proposes outlays of $662,700m and receipts of $711,800m. Defence would take 25 per cent of the expenditure, compared with 24 per cent proposed for the current year. Under Mr Carter's proposals the percentage of the budget devoted to defence will increase steadily to 28.5 per cent in 1986.

Using a calculation of the percentage of the gross national product devoted to defence, the increase is less striking. It will rise from 5.4 per cent to 5.7 per cent between 1976 and 1982, while the percentage of gnp spent by the Federal Government in the same period rises from 22.3 per cent to 23 per cent.

If local government expenditures are included, the percentage is about a third. In his Budget message today, President Carter once again denounced large tax cuts as inflationary.

"I continue to believe that large inflationary individual income tax cuts are neither appropriate nor possible today, however popular they might appear in the short run", he said.

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

B'nett & H'shire	15p to 878p	Lasmo	8p to 717p
Cornell Dresses	10p to 78p	Ldn Utd Inv	15p to 185p
Daily Mail Tst	8p to 461p	Majedie	16p to 96p
GKN	8p to 146p	Ultramar	7p to 488p
Holt Lloyd	4p to 60p	Utd Dom Tst	12p to 52p

Falls

Barclays Bank	8p to 410p	Milford Docks	5p to 93p
Global Nat Res	10p to 420p	Newmark L.	8p to 360p
Man Ship Canal	10p to 188p	Rentokil	6p to 162p
Mercantile Hse	20p to 560p	Standard Chart	10p to 647p
Massey Ferguson	30p to 135p	Wigfall H.	5p to 131p

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells		Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia $	2.11	2.03	Norway Kr	12.88	12.33
Austria Sch	35.30	33.30	Portugal Esc	134.00	126.00
Belgium Fr	79.50	76.00	South Africa Rd	2.13	2.00
Canada $	2.92	2.84	Spain Pta	196.00	187.50
Denmark Kr	15.28	14.58	Sweden Kr	11.04	10.54
Finland Mkk	9.69	9.24	Switzerland Fr	4.49	4.28
France Fr	11.39	10.94	USA $	2.45	2.38
Germany DM	4.96	4.74	Yugoslavia Dnr	83.50	78.50
Greece Dr	129.00	122.00			
Hongkong $	12.70	12.10			
Ireland Pt	1.33	1.27			
Italy Lira	2,380.00	2,270.00			
Japan Yn	513.00	487.00			
Netherlands Gld	5.37	5.14			

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Unigate to merge its baby foods operation with Dutch group

Cow & Gate takes the bull by the horns

The image of the now-unfashionably rounded features of the Cow & Gate baby, which was a symbol of childhood feeding time for many British babies, underwent a significant change yesterday when Unigate, the parent company, announced that it was merging the operation with Nutricia, a Dutch baby food group.

This will take Cow & Gate, which currently has a 30 per cent share of the British baby food market, into a group which should emerge as number 3 in the European market with combined sales of about £50m, behind Nestlé and Glaxo. The latter, with Wyeth, is Cow & Gate's main competition in this country.

Unigate said that discussions are under way which should lead to a merger of the two companies' interests in the manufacture and sale of infant feeding products throughout the world.

If all goes according to plan, Nutricia will acquire the manufacturing and sales facilities of Cow & Gate in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland with its overseas packing and sales operations.

In turn Unigate will receive a shareholding of about 25 per cent in Nutricia through the issue of new shares by the end of March.

The reason for the merger Mr John Clement, chairman of Unigate, said that although Cow & Gate was one of the oldest and most respected names in the infant feeding business in this country, it had played a smaller part in Unigate's international operations.

With turnover at 3 per cent, or about £25m of the group total, Cow & Gate's profits, which are not disclosed, are thought to be a mere £200,000 or so a year.

At the same time the baby food industry, including Cow & Gate, had been forced to spend a lot of time in recent years dealing with criticism, such as that levelled at Nestlé about its sales to third world countries where mothers were not sufficiently educated to use the products correctly and allowed their babies to become dehydrated.

On top of that, breast feeding had become more popular again in Europe while the number of births had declined, and although Cow & Gate's main export market was to Nigeria and the old Commonwealth countries (excluding Canada) it did not have the opportunity to move into the fast-expanding industrializing countries of the Far East.

Nutricia, on the other hand, had a presence in the former Dutch colonies such as Indonesia where there had been rapid urbanization resulting in a greater number of working mothers and a higher birth rate, all contributing to sales.

The Dutch group is also recovering from diversification it started in the 1970s from its traditional milk-based products which proved financially disastrous.

Rosemary Unsworth

Lloyd's clash over private Bill on self-regulation

By Richard Allen
Insurance Correspondent

A conflict within Lloyd's over the drafting of a private Bill designed to improve the insurance market's self-regulatory procedures is expected to come to a head early next week—only days before the Bill is scheduled to be presented to Parliament.

At least 15 Conservative MPs are understood to have given their backing to a call to Mr Peter Green, Lloyd's chairman, for an urgent meeting to discuss proposed amendments with critics of the Bill.

The implication is that if Lloyd's existing 16-man committee cannot reach a compromise with objectors, the fight could be taken to the House of Commons with the result that enactment of the Bill could at least be delayed for at least a year.

Several interested parties have been calling for amendments to the draft Bill, including the recently-formed Association of External Members, which is chaired by Lady Janey Middleton, a former member of the ill-starred Sasse underwriting syndicate.

Most significantly, the association is attempting to force an amendment to Clause 11 of the draft Bill which would effectively give an indemnity to the proposed Lloyd's ruling council against court action in the wake of a market dispute.

Others feel that proposals for divestment of underwriting interests by Lloyd's insurance brokers, as contained in last year's report from a working party headed by Sir Henry Fisher, should be introduced. These proposals have already caused bitter controversy within the market.

Americans will benefit from expertise of European subsidiaries

US poses latest threat to car industry

By the mid-1980s, the main threat to the European car industry would come not from the Japanese but from American manufacturers, Dr Walter Hasselkus, managing director of Germany's BMW British subsidiary said in London yesterday.

"American manufacturers have fallen behind both European and Japanese car makers in technical development and manufacturing processes. Now they are using the expertise of their European subsidiaries and, in the next few years, both Ford and General Motors will benefit from the development work carried out by the engineers of their European subsidiaries", he said.

When this was added to the estimated £1,200m being invested by the American car industry in the next few years "the European industry will be faced with a much greater challenge than that ever posed by the Japanese".

The challenge had to be faced in both Britain and West Germany by not increasing wages faster than productivity and by not lessening productivity through absenteeism.

West Germany's metal workers' union was seeking wage increases of eight per cent, which was three per cent more than the rate of inflation, a problem that was also occurring in the United Kingdom. The effective working week in Germany was 31.5 hours compared with 35 hours in the United States and 39 hours in Japan.

Despite a generally accepted forecast that the United Kingdom new car market ould fall by about 6 per cent this year compared ith 1980 to about 1.42 million units, BMW, like other European importers, was hoping to increase its market share. It expected to sell 15,000 cars in the United Kingdom this year, a 12 per cent rise on 1980.

A group of British motorists still demanded high quality cars and the company had been forced to double production for the United Kingdom market of the £21,000 735i special equipment saloon model.

BMW motor cycle sales in the United Kingdom were expected to increase by 32 per cent during 1981 to 3,300 machines and the United Kingdom was expected to become the second largest export market after the United States.

Dr Hasselkus criticized price-cutting undertaken by some car manufacturers in the United Kingdom market. "If all imported car makers cut their prices in relation to the strength of sterling, this would seriously damage the competitiveness of British manufacturers.

"This is a dangerous path to follow, as Europe needs a British motor industry and an attack on it is an attack on the British economy", he said.

BMW car prices rose by an average of 1.5 per cent last year and he did not foresee any further increases in 1981.

Edward Townsend

UK seeks amendment on liability

Britain is seeking support of other European Community countries for early amendment of the EEC Commission's product liability directive to clarify development risks for industry, Mrs Sally Oppenheim, the British Consumer Affairs Minister said in an interview at Bonn.

Britain seeks an amendment to the draft directive to remove continued uncertainty about industry's responsibility for injury or death by faulty products, which the makers could not know about at the time of development.

The absence of this amendment could inhibit innovation and raise the cost of insurance cover for industry, Mrs Oppenheim said.

New York surplus

New York City is likely to have a budget surplus of $200m (about £83m) in the fiscal year ending June 30, because of higher than expected revenues, Mr Harrison Goldin, the Comptroller said. He predicted a surplus of around $23m for fiscal 1982.

Energy survey call

The United States should take the "very prudent and practical step" of conducting a survey of national energy resources, Mr John R. Grey, the president of Standard Oil of California said in Bakersfield. A limited survey of uranium reserves is already under way.

Elf halts exploration

The French state-owned Elf Aquitaine oil company has decided to postpone indefinitely operations in areas covered by five oil exploration permits granted recently by Libya.

Aircraft study

CAAC, the Chinese national airline is undertaking a study of foreign aircraft with the aim of buying one or two types for use on domestic and international routes, Mr Shen Tu, the CAAC director-General said, in Peking.

MPs hope for grant aid to modernize Vauxhall

Four Cheshire MPs seek urgent talks today with top Vauxhall management to press for large investment—with possible government aid—at their Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, factory.

Vauxhall yesterday announced nearly 3,000 redundancies at the plant, saying they were necessary to protect its long-term future.

The MPs. Mr David Hunt, (Wirral, Conservative); Mr Barry Porter (Bebbington and Ellesmere Port, Conservatives); Mrs Lynda Chalker (Wallasey, Conservatives) and Mr Frank Field (Birkenhead, Labour) said yesterday they had been told unofficially that the Government would be prepared to look favourably on any application for grants to modernize the factory.

Mr Hunt described yesterday's announcement as appalling and said there were fears that Ellesmere Port may be downgraded to an assembly plant with a less skilled workforce.

Overall Vauxhall want to shed 5,700 jobs by voluntary redundancies and early retirement at their Ellesmere Port, Luton and Dunstable plants.

Apart from government grants, Mr Hunt said loans could be available from the European Investment Bank at favourable interest rates.

He claimed the adjoining Bowater paper mill, which closed in November with the loss of 1,600 jobs, had been offered about £34m in similar grants and loans.

Mr Hunt said the MPs wanted to discuss a constructive alternative with the company. Vauxhall has already announced a long-term policy to use British car factories to assemble parts made on the Continent.

At present, the 9,000 workers at Ellesmere Port produce the successful Chevette, making most of the main parts as well as assembling the cars.

Yesterday the company announced that by the end of the year the new Astra model would be assembled at the factory from German parts.

Today, shop stewards were meeting to discuss the redundancy plan. Mr Cliff Keech, Wirral district secretary for the engineering union, who has 4,000 members at Ellesmere Port, said it was too early to say what the response of the workforce would be.

He expected the unions to have drawn up a "common policy" towards the job losses by the time the company's joint negotiating committee meets next Thursday.

Talbot future: Mr George Turnbull, chairman of Talbot UK, told government ministers yesterday that no decisions had been made by the company or its parent, PSA Peugeot Citroën of France, about the nature or scale of its future activities in the United Kingdom, Edward Townsend writes.

The meeting, attended by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, Mr Norman Tebbit, Minister of State for Industry and Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, followed considerable speculation in recent months about Peugeot's intentions for the United Kingdom operation.

Commerce chamber joins attack on stock relief plan

By Peter Wainwright

The London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which represents 8,000 companies, has joined the attack on the Inland Revenue's proposals for reforming methods of stock relief.

The Revenue's consultative paper, published in November, proposed to reduce company tax relief to the extent that stocks are financed by borrowings.

The chamber argues that to apply the credit restriction only in cases where stocks are more than £1m is "arbitrary". Evidence is growing, it says, that the method indicated in the consultative paper will "considerably" reduce relief available to manufacturers.

It adds: "It is therefore essential for the Government to press on with a more thorough review of taxation based on inflation-proofed accounts, and to produce the Green Paper as soon as possible."

The chamber welcomes a proposal which would remove the danger of a clawback of tax relief granted in earlier years as companies' stocks fall, but it says that a case can be made for no clawback at all, even on cessation of a business.

At the least, it argues, there should be no clawback of relief if a business ceases operations in one trade and starts another. It suggests also that when a trader suffers an abnormal fall in stocks for reasons outside his control, he should have the opportunity to claim relief based on stocks held over the financial year.

Study centre says training boards should be abolished

By Our Industrial Staff

Industrial training boards (ITB) are the subject for scathing criticism in a new report by the right wing Centre for Policy Studies. The boards, it says, are a waste of public money and all 23 of them should be abolished.

The report concludes that the boards have now fulfilled the purpose for which they were conceived. "Their continued existence is a waste of scarce resources, a drain on the finances of industry, and a totally unnecessary claim on public funds. The only people who now benefit from ITBs are those who work in them."

The report comes after a government decision to reduce state funds given to the boards to cover operating costs. Earlier this week the Engineering Industry Training Board said that until the funding issue had been resolved, plans for new training courses would be suspended.

The centre—founded in 1974 by Mrs Thatcher and Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry—says that the training boards cost more than £93m in Exchequer support in 1978-79. The system is wasteful, causes unnecessary paperwork, is "fiendishly" complicated, affects small companies adversely, and has results that cannot be measured.

The authors call for greater priority to be given to efforts to help the unemployed and the disabled.

Industrial Training Boards: Why They Should be Dismantled, Centre for Policy Studies, 8 Wilfred Street, London. £3.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mr Steel's plan for economic recovery

From Mr Michael Meacher, MP for Oldham West (Labour)

Sir, The trouble with Mr Steel's plan for economic recovery is that, faced with the central divide in British economic policy between reducing unemployment or reducing inflation, he succeeds remarkably in offering the worst of both worlds.

The fundamental question is whether he is proposing a significant reflation of the economy or not. If he isn't (and it must be extremely doubtful whether his recipe of a modest expansion of PSBR plus a cut in MLR would be anywhere near adequate to bring unemployment below one million within, say, five years, where does the recovery come from, and how would he stop unemployment going even higher? If he is, how would he avoid such a significant reflation being choked off by either of the two factors that have prevented *sustained* expansion in the past, namely a huge sucking-in of imports leading to a massive trade crisis and stop-go-stop, and/or the revival of unacceptably high rates of inflation (for why should his long-term incomes policy succeed when all others have failed in the past?)

On the trade question, a *sustained* expansion of the British economy, and the sustained increase in manufacturing investment needed to underpin it, will only be secured by regulating broadly that the growth in manufactured imports does not increase faster than the growth of the domestic economy. This should certainly not lead to retaliation abroad when the present policy of, effectively, import controls via *high and rising unemployment* is reducing our market for foreign goods much more.

On the inflation issue, a fundamental cause of this growing problem over the last two decades has been that when in the past governments of both parties have stimulated the economy, using a variety of tax reduction and increased public expenditure measures, industry has failed to respond by increasing production and investment to a similar degree because of their (not unjustified) fears that the boom will be short-lived and that most of the extra demand will benefit imports, *not home production. This gap* between the increase in money in people's pockets and the little or no increase in production is then filled by inflation. It should be precisely the role of agreements made with the largest companies to secure a *co-ordinated* expansion of the supply/production side of the economy to match the Keynesian expansion on the demand side.

It is this essential key to growth that at the same time offers the hope of steadily reducing inflation, which Mr Steel's proposals fatally lack.

MICHAEL MEACHER,
House of Commons,
January 14.

Registration of engineers

From Mr John G. Kapp

Sir, Most chartered engineers would agree with Rowland Morgan (Letters, January 13) that the new registering body should be modelled on the General Medical Council's constitution, namely a majority of directly elected members, a minority nominated and a few appointees of the Privy Council. This view was corroborated by the NOP poll of IEE members in 1979, which was referred to by Derek Harris on January 7. The 92 per cent quoted in favour were asked the following question: "Do you think that it would be a good or bad idea for such a (registering) authority (like the GMC) to exist in the United Kingdom for your particular profession?" Mr Arthur Palmer has interpreted the 92 per cent "good idea" voters to support *statutory* regulation, whereas I interpret it to support *self* regulation (the GMC has both).

Addressing Mr Harris's pertinent questions at the end of his report on January 10, I doubt whether chartered engineers would agree, by the two-thirds majority required in a general meeting, to their present registering body, CEI, handing over the title "chartered engineer" to a 100 per cent ministerially appointed quango, of which they would not be members and over which *they would have no control*. They would be unwilling to pay annual subscriptions to the new body to make it self-financing, unless they could see that it would be accountable to them through their elected representatives.

If the above views are right, the new body as proposed would fail on both counts. Sir Keith Joseph would be unwise to make any move to found the new body until chartered engineers have made clear through a poll what they would support.

JOHN G. KAPP,
55 Hove Park Road,
Hove,

Christmas and efficient production

From Mr J. N. Bryant

Sir, What a lot of nonsense is said and written about the two-week Christmas vacation which is now the norm.

When employees' holidays amounted to two weeks a year these were naturally taken in the summer, but over the last few years large increases have taken place in annual holiday entitlement and as far as many organizations are concerned it is far more productive to take some of this at Christmas and fill in the non-Bank holiday days that occur between Christmas Eve and January 2 with part of this allocation.

This, surely, must be far more efficient than all the holiday being taken in the summer followed by a stop-go *Christmas and New Year's holiday*. In addition, of course, the energy consumed is considerably less as the large industrial buildings are generally not heated during two of the colder weeks of the year.

Yours faithfully,

J. N. BRYANT.
Managing Director,
Brymor Limited,
Tonbridge Road,
East Peckham,
Tonbridge,
Kent, TN12 5JX.
January 9.

Will jobs ever be found for the unemployed?

From D. G. Galvin

Sir, We are constantly being told by various business and financial organizations that the unemployment figures in Britain will pass the 2½ million mark in the first half of 1981—probably nudging 3 million by the end of the year.

On the other hand equally erudite experts envisage that the silicon chips revolution will in due course do away with a large number of manual jobs in factories, offices and shops. How, then, will very many of the 2½ to 3 million unemployed ever return to their former manual modes of work? Will they be indefinitely suspended in a state of enforced "leisure" subsidized by the state

Yours faithfully,

D. G. GALVIN,
Trewartha,
Germoe Crossroads,
Near Praa Sands,
Penzance,
Cornwall.

هكذا من الأصل

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

UDT comes under offer

Long-term strategy clash with short-term opportunism in the Lloyds & Scottish bid for UDT. The £106m share and cash offer will initially cause some serious dilution in L & S profits: it will enlarge the equity base by some 60 per cent while earnings are not likely to grow by much more than 20 per cent assuming profits of some £35m for Lloyds & Scottish and, say £7m for UDT.

That is taking out of the picture UDT's own proposals to merge its United Kingdom consumer credit side with the Trustee Savings Banks. Should that deal go through UDT could look forward to profits of some £15m.

This is one reason why the offer of 55p, a shade over assets value—but well above the 42p in the market—is not over-generous, but because of the dilution, it is difficult to see L & S going very much higher.

For UDT, however, the prospects are not all that glum if it goes ahead with the TSB deal. So while UDT is keeping its powder dry and says nothing, it is likely to resist the bid.

On a longer view the logic of a merger with Lloyds & Scottish become more apparent. UDT's non-consumer credit activities, including the International Commodities Clearing House, car leasing and industrial interests, would provide a strong counter-cyclical influence to consumer credit.

Moreover, geographically, L & S's strength in the North and Scotland would fit in well with UDT's good spread in the South. Together the joint group would be up with the big groups as number three among finance houses behind Mercantile but in line with Forward Trust. *Meanwhile* UDT shareholders should not rush to sell in the market. Any outcome will eventually, be decided by Eagle Star and the Prudential which together own 37 per cent of UDT.

Grand Metropolitan

Liggett starts to contribute

Grand Metropolitan's results package—an 11.8 per cent increase in profits to £152m, a 15½ per cent increase in the dividend and property revaluation producing a book surplus of around £550m—saw the share price up by 8p to 145p yesterday.

The impetus of course has come from its acquisition of the United States Liggett Group last year which has contributed £22.4m in four months before financing charges which in turn are largely responsible for a £17½m increase in group interest charges to £61m.

Nevertheless, Grand Met's balance sheet remains strong with the revaluation surplus bringing gearing down to 46 per cent even after allowing for the net borrowings of around $475m taken on to finance the Liggett purchase.

The intriguing point about the current year is not only that Liggett will contribute fully (and it is obviously performing up to expectations) but also the extent to which Grand Met could benefit during a period when interest charges on both sides of the Atlantic are coming down and, with luck, when the sterling rate (a major deflationary factor on last year's profits, particularly in the hotels and wines and spirits divisions) should start to ease.

With 40 per cent of earnings now made overseas, the impact would be considerable.

And even at home Grand Met appears better able than some to cope with the stresses of the recession; the overall performance from the rump of the business was flat in the second half but nevertheless areas like brewing, where others are suffering from excess capacity at a time of weakening demand, seem to be standing up well suggesting increases in market share.

Grand Met now yields 6½ per cent on a dividend that would still be covered twice under current cost accounting. Clearly—as the abortive attempt to buy Coral demonstrated—it does not feel restricted by the recession.

Official Government recognition that the public sector borrowing requirement will now overshoot last November's revised estimate (of £11,500m) did no good for an uncertain gilt-edged market yesterday. But the authorities must clearly be hoping that having pushed out the bad news, the market will now stabilize sufficiently for them to get their funding moving again.

On the plus side the latest Treasury forecasts seem to be painting a much brighter picture than commonly expected on the PSBR prospects last year; sterling remains extremely firm, pushing up to a new five-year "high" against the Deutschemark yesterday; and institutional coffers should be replenished by large interest payments over the rest of the month.

But just how much investors are currently prepared to take on trust is another matter. The PSBR forecasts are clearly dependent on the line being tightly held on public sector pay, while the market would clearly like the additional reassurance from the January banking figures that the trend in the growth of bank lending to the private sector really is continuing on a downward path.

BET

Slowing down

British Electric Traction's curt statement that the normally stronger second half would not be much different from the first, sent the shares down 5p to 119p.

Interim pretax profits were down from £30.4m to £28.0m and BET is implying a full-year outturn of about £56m—a drop of around one-fifth. The construction-related activities have been among the worst hit by the recession, while profits from publishing have also been under pressure.

However, the group's associated companies provided a timely boost. Thames Television, hit the previous year by the TV strike rebounded from loss to profit and this along with a higher contribution from Initial Services explains doubled profits from associated companies of £4.7m.

Otherwise it has been a story of deepening recession stemming progress and although borrowings did not rise during the half-year, interest charges were up from £7.9m to £12.2m excluding North Sea financing.

A higher tax charge because of further losses on Hongkong television left earnings down by nearly one-third despite the smaller fall pretax. However, a maintained final dividend, in line with the interim, looks likely. A 9.1 per cent yield is good support for the shares until BET resumes its onward march and further ahead in 1983 there is a prospect of cash flow from the Maureen Field in the North Sea, where the group has a 5 per cent interest.

S. & W. Berisford

A return to growth

After a slowdown in 1979, S & W Berisford, the commodity trader with ambition to buy British Sugar Corp., recovered its remarkable growth momentum last year. Profits increased by 12 per cent to £36.1m, while turnover rose in line by 13 per cent to £2,452m.

Interest charges—up 13 per cent at £11.8m—might have been less if the company year had not ended on September 30, and if it had benefited for more than two months from the £28.5m rights issue. Even so, second half charges were about £1m less than in the first half.

Berisford now proposes a one-for-two scrip issue, a move which together with a necessary increase in authorized capital may be interpreted as preparing the way for a bid for British Sugar should the Monopolies Commission allow it.

The crucial issue in any bid's success, however, must be how the market and shareholders see Berisford's performance this year. Although cocoa prices are historically low, the company's position as the world's biggest cocoa trader must stand it in good stead, and it seems set to increase business with the Ivory Coast.

Other interests such as the metals and food processing subsidiaries could probably make a larger contribution. Profits of around £42m seem possible. Certainly the market took a kind view, the shares gained 6p to 183p, where they yield 7.6 per cent after the expected 30 per cent increase in the total dividend to 13.9p gross.

David Blake

Tax options for the next Budget

We know now just when the Chancellor of the Exchequer will present his Budget—March 10—but we do not yet know what he will say in it. Nor, reasonably enough, does he.

The period of purdah in which Chancellors work out their budgetary plans is only just beginning. But, even without leaks, it ought to be possible to make some intelligent estimates of the likely shape of the Budget, particularly since we have had part of it already in the form of the November 24 statement.

It now looks unlikely that there is much to come in the way of further overall tax increases. *The extra revenue to* be raised by the measures announced in November is predicted to bring the level of government borrowing down to about £10,000m in the next financial year.

Unless the outlook changes greatly, that implies that the Government will need to raise a maximum of about £1,000m to get borrowing down to a figure which sounds consistent with the medium-term strategy. There may even be a case for no increase at all. So, in that sense, *the predictions of a* tough Budget which some people were making before Christmas are wide of the mark. But the fact that the overall tax burden will, if this analysis is right, go up only slightly does not mean that we will all get off scot free.

There has been a great deal of talk lately about the balance between different sectors of the economy and it is this which may be the prime target of the Chancellor's measures. Put simply, we can look on the *domestic* part of the economy as being divided into three sectors—the personal sector, *the public sector* and the corporate sector.

As figures published last week *showed, individuals did* pretty well for themselves during 1980. Living standards in the third quarter of the year were up by 2 per cent on a year previously. Another sign that people were not particularly hard-pressed on average was that the proportion of income saved went up quite *sharply during the late summer* to about 17 per cent, which is the highest level for many years.

> 'There has been a great deal of talk lately about the balance between different sections of the economy and it is this which may be the prime target of the Chancellor's measures'

But the relative well-being of the personal sector has been paid for at the expense of the companies for which many of them in it work. Gross profits are down sharply, reflecting the fact that companies have faced falling demand and higher costs, especially wage costs.

So the likely thing for the Chancellor to do is to try to shift some money back from *individuals to the company sector* by increasing the tax burden on the personal sector and cutting it on companies.

The most popular thing he could do, as far as industry is concerned, is *to cut the special* national insurance surcharge which employers have to pay. This has been pressed very hard by the Confederation of British Industry, but the cost of over £3,000m makes it probably too large a concession to give in a straightforward form.

The Chancellor has, in any case, a personal aversion to the idea on the grounds that it would reduce resistance to wage *claims and would benefit* the just and the unjust alike.

There still remains at least *a sporting chance that some* cut in the surcharge will be made, either across the board or (which would be better) *selectively. Some industries are* experiencing special problems at present, particularly because of the effect of the high exchange rate.

It would make sense to give *them special help by cutting* the surcharge either in certain industries or in certain regions. In political terms, linking any cut to depressed regions has obvious attractions; it would slow down the rise in unemployment in those places where the problems are worst. But, on economic grounds, there is a strong case for basing any selectivity on giving help to those industries worst hit by current *problems.*

In practice, that means manufacturing industry, which has been hard hit by the rise in the pound. Since this in turn has been caused by a combination of North Sea oil and high interest rates — two factors which together have led to high profits for the banks and oil companies — there would be some neatness in financing concessions to manufacturing out of *revenue raised from* the banks and oil companies.

There has been a partial step down that road already with the announcement of higher taxes on the oil companies. What about the prospect of extra taxes on banks?

That is perhaps the most open question of all. The case for doing it is that banks have gained windfall profits as a result of the high interest rates *needed to implement the Government's monetary policy.* They have done nothing to deserve these profits and have used them *to finance absurdly* high pay increases which stir up a sense of injustice elsewhere.

It thus makes sense to recycle these profits back to the manufacturing industry which provided them in the first place.

The case against this is that the banks, under the guidance of the Bank of England, have done far more than anyone realizes to prop up companies in trouble. Once account is taken of the need to make provision for bad debts, their *profits are no longer remarkable* and taxing them would in any case risk bringing down the whole structure. Without advising anyone to place a bet on it, the balance may swing at the end against extra bank taxes.

As well as cuts in the national insurance surcharge we are *likely* to see other attempts to help industry which will cost money. Some concessions will *emerge from the joint working* party on energy prices, which will cut down the Government's take from the energy industry. Sir Keith Joseph is turning out to be a high spender at the Department of Industry, just as he was in his days at Health and *Social Security.* The bill for companies such as Rolls-Royce and BL looks *likely* to be a big one.

Where will the money come from for all this, given that the Government certainly cannot afford to bring in a Budget *which actually increases the* level of borrowing? The obvious increases in duties on drink, tobacco and petrol look likely to go ahead—indeed, they have been assumed in drawing up the forecast of £10,000m—if policies are unchanged. By announcing his Budget before the start of the financial year, the Chancellor will get more than usual from this source.

But the other obvious area *remains income tax, though* the standard rate of 30 per cent has been sacrosanct.

The *Chancellor* does not *like* the way in which indexation has spread in the economy and there is a *strong probability* that increases will not go ahead fully in line with inflation. *Indexation under the "Rooker-Wise"* provisions costs the Government about £2,500m. If *allowances went up* by only 10 per cent, instead of the 15 per cent required under automatic indexation, the Government could save more than £800m.

This is an increase in income tax, but it is a concealed one, just as the increase in employees' insurance contributions is much the same as a tax rise. So the real *burden* of income tax will rise next year to pay for help to industry and to keep *down the level of government* borrowing.

This shifting of the burden of taxation makes sense, but it will not on its own generate a recovery. For that to happen the Government will have to pump an overall increase in demand into the economy or trust to the hope that things *will in time recover of their* own accord.

And when in March the Budget *is greeted by a general* sense that it is less tough than expected, remember that part of the reason for that is that we have had part of the Budget already in November.

The year just gone saw a funny kind of boom for the personal sector, *during* which wages ran ahead of prices to push up living standards. In 1981 wages are expected to rise more slowly than prices and the *real burden of tax on the individual* will go up. All those savings put aside last year could come in handy after all.

Why the Germans invest in sure-fire losers

Frankfurt

West Germany's "grey" capital market has had its best-ever year.

In 1980 tens of thousands of prosperous citizens poured an estimated 3,600m to 4,000m Deutsche marks (£780m-£870m) into a host of more or less exotic projects at home and abroad.

The grey capital market has been used to finance a film, a private rocket launching *company in Zaire, transport* facilities in Tonga and block upon block of holiday apartments in almost every area of the world that has ever claimed to be a tourists' paradise.

But it is doubtful whether the assorted doctors, dentists and company directors thought first of the preconditions of *box office success, the economics* of rocketry or the transportation requirements of the "Friendly Isles" *when signing* their cheques. For the first essential of investments on the grey capital market is that they should offer losses.

Advertisements promising "losses" well in excess of any capital to be invested attracted more money last year than was raised through new share issues on the West German stock exchanges. The magic formula that makes sense of *this apparent nonsense is that* the losses offered in the initial phases of such projects can be set against an individual's taxable income from other sources.

For a modest investment of a few thousand pounds the individual can reduce his or her income tax bill to zero and one day even have a share of some project that might be of value.

But last month, the high season for such tax saving schemes ahead of the end of the year, a shock wave was sent through this rapidly growing part of the German financial world. Herr Jochem Erlemann, one of the more flamboyant operators on the grey capital market, was arrested on suspicion of embezzling investors' funds.

Herr Erlemann, who was arrested in Cologne, has been *accused by the Darmstadt state* prosecutor of having embezzled DM1.9m as a member of the *supervisory board of Contruck* Industrie-Güter. Investigations are also being made into two other companies called Normbetrieb Prefab Constructions-Element and Petro-Gas Industrienlagen (Pegia).

These three companies had assembled more than DM200m as capital from investors in *West Germany. The prosecutor's office* is now involved in what is likely to be a lengthy *investigation to find out what* happened to the money.

For investors the three companies had the attraction of offering high initial losses. In such a company the investor would be given a certificate stating that write-offs had been made in respect of his share in the company that exceeded his investment and this "*loss,*" could be set against his other income for tax purposes.

The specific objectives for which the three companies had been founded were somewhat out of the ordinary. Contruck was established to rent out bottled gas in Lebanon. Normbetrieb's purpose was to build prefabricated houses in Saudi Arabia and install the necessary electrical equipment in them. Pegia, like Contruck, was engaged in renting out gas equipment in the Middle East.

The unfortunate investors who provided the capital for the three companies are not only contemplating its possible loss but could also face hefty demands from the West German tax authorities for repayment of the tax losses they had claimed. If Herr Erlemann's business activities are proved to be fraudulent the German authorities will no longer have any reason to recognize as valid the tax losses claimed by the investors.

The episode has inevitably thrown up a number of *questions about the habits of the* West German investor and the state of the country's financial markets. German press reports naming a Bonn politician and the chief executive of one of the country's biggest engineering groups among the victims of the alleged fraud have inevitably prompted people to ask what it is that makes people so apparently willing to invest in such enterprises.

Strangely enough, one answer may be the generally high level of tax morality in the country. *Whereas in* Belgium or Italy the prosperous professional man might be inclined to defraud the tax authorities, most Germans seek to pay as little tax as possible while respecting the rules set by the authorities.

A second point is the absence of any other attractive haven for risk capital. The people who trusted Herr Erlemann may have come unstuck, but perhaps thousands of others have been well rewarded *through risking money* in apartment blocks along the not so warm North German *coast or in* distant South American grazing land.

In contrast, investors have little to show from investment in shares. Last year was another disappointing period for German stock exchanges. In general, companies that are doing well refuse to raise their dividends, while there is less *hesitation to cut payments* when conditions deteriorate.

The activities of the tax saving *companies are a worry for* the West German Government but so far attempts to limit the scope of their activities has not prevented the growth of the sector as a whole as entrepreneurs develop new "models" to circumvent the regulations.

The obvious willingness of investors to provide risk capital in the hope of reward is *prompting some commentators* to suggest that the Government and banks should act to make shares an attractive investment medium once again. The French Government has provided an example close at hand of how to stimulate popular interest in equities.

At a time of recession, such a policy would help to ensure that the surplus millions of Germany's prospering professional classes found their way into productive investment rather than chasing promises *that could prove to be worthless* as well as loss making.

Peter Norman

Technology

Venturing out of the ivory tower

"The National Research Development Corporation offers *expertise and finance to assist* the transfer of technology from academic institutions to industrial companies." The offer is made by the corporation in its booklet *NRDC and the academic researcher*, but how effectively is the technology transferred?

The accusation that good science in Britain's universities tends not to emerge in the shape of good products in the *world outside has been* a familiar one over many years.

That accusation is less true *now than it has been in the* past. On the evidence of a conference on industrial innovation from university research, held last week in Manchester, inside a fair number of professors of science and technology there are keen entrepreneurs struggling to get out.

Indeed, a fair number of their brainchildren do emerge and are marketed successfully—some with NRDC help and some without. *Cephalosporin* antibiotics, which originated in research at Oxford University and Medical Research Council laboratories, continue to be the corporation's biggest single revenue-earner; *and the number* of inventions communicated to the NRDC by university researchers *continues* at the healthy annual level of more than 400 (out of a total of about 1,800).

As the NRDC is now telling the academic world, the corporation *is there to help in the* exploitation of inventions from universities and polytechnics. This is one of *its* statutory functions. In parallel, there are several other routes out of the ivory *tower* and *into* the marketplace.

A number of interesting case histories were recounted at the Manchester conference, which was held by the NRDC at Manchester University Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST). Two of these examples did not in fact involve the corporation, but served to illuminate some *sound basic principles.*

Professor Brian Pullen, of Manchester University's medical biophysics department, described the Magiscan image analyser, a computer-based *machine which can give detailed* measurements from a television, microscope or X-ray image. Development of the Magiscan was a joint development by the university and the Joyce-Loebl company, arising from a company salesman's visit, a university suggestion for an improved product and an agreement for joint development.

The company paid the salary of one university engineer and *seconded one of its own staff* (later to return to the company as project manager) for the two-year development phase. The university provided facilities and ideas.

Backing from the Wolfson Foundation helped at a later stage, while the Vickers takeover of Joyce-Loebl almost caused the *entire project* to be dropped. Despite legal difficulties, the project survived and a Mark 2 version of the Magiscan appeared last month.

Professor Pullen noted the following factors: a competitive product was produced in a *short* time by doing development and production engineering in parallel; total expenditure was minimized by making the best use of the respective facilities; good communications were ensured by the seconded company man ("*He poured oil on storms in teacups*"); there was continuous product development; *and* there was a viable unit in the university for helping industry.

This is a *good example of* the kind of rapid transfer of technology that the NRDC likes *to see.* Professor *Pullen did* not believe that the corporation could have assisted materially *in facilitating the* initial company/university contact, but agreed that NRDC *finance at a later stage might* have been appropriate if the Wolfson support had not been forthcoming.

Professor Michael Hampshire, professor of solid-state *electronics* at Salford University, described the creation of two subsidiaries of a local *company which were based on* university technology.

The first was a spin-off from *university work* (part-supported by the NRDC) on vibrating devices known as *piezo ceramic horns.* An acoustic device for a student project led to a range of audible alarms which were greatly in advance of the then available commercial products. Patents were taken out and an industrial partner was sought.

Here again, it could have been appropriate for the NRDC to assist at this stage, but this role was handled in the event by the university's own industrial unit. Ward & Goldstone of Salford took up the idea and one of the coinventors *moved from the university to* join the company and became general manager of a new subsidiary, Pensec, which has been selling the alarms and developing new ones.

Ward & Goldstone then asked Professor Hampshire how microelectronics was likely to affect the electrical wiring *harnesses of motor* cars and, following his advice, suggested inventing a microelectronic equivalent. Professor Hampshire came up with a microelectronic system which he called Salplex (from Salford Multiplex) and which he patented.

A prototype system was installed, developed and tested in a secondhand car and later in a new car which was demonstrated to *Ford.*

An improved version was developed, but it was realized that full development would be very expensive and more industrial muscle was needed. *The General Electric Company*, which had supplied microcircuits for the system, then took a 60 per cent *interest* in Ward & Goldstone's Salplex subsidiary and is now pursuing the next stage of development.

Professor Hampshire also stressed the value of close links between the university and the company. In this case the links included the professor's acting as technical adviser to Ward & Goldstone. He urged his fellow academics to think commercially and develop new products, which Britain desperately needed. It was *not* necessary, he suggested, to stick to one's own discipline ("My research discipline is neither buzzers nor car electronics").

Many universities have set up their own industrial units and consultancy companies. Only this week a new industrial liaison company was announced at the University of Kent at Canterbury.

Kenneth Owen

Business Diary: Who's not who • Brass tax

The EEC Commission is setting new standards in planned obsolescence. Today it produced its latest directory* containing names of the Commission members and the leading officials in its 20 different directorates general.

The only trouble is that the information relates to the position as it was in October, 1980, and therefore takes no account of the fact that a new Commission has been in office since the beginning of this year.

The reason for this monumental waste of public money seems to be none other than bureaucratic routine. The Commission produces a new directory every six months and when the time came to draw up the present edition in October of last year, nobody stopped to consider that it would be out of date by the time of publication.

The Commission presidency is, according to this document, still filled by Roy Jenkins. The social affairs commissioner is named as Henk Vredeling and not Ivor Richard as at present. The energy portfolio is apparently in the hands of Guido Brunner, who was known to be leaving Brussels as soon as the West German election results came through.

The directory is hardly a good advertisement for Commission efficiency. Nor is it very informative. At the very *least* it might have provided the telephone extension numbers of the people listed, so that the reader could get *in* touch with those people who are still in Brussels.

**Directory of the Commission of the European Communities*, published by the Office for *Official* Publications of the European Communities.

Belgium's pigeon fanciers are facing up bravely to the unpleasant fact that Wilfried Martens, the Prime Minister, is striking out everywhere in his attempt to improve the finances of his chronically indebted country.

While government plans for wage restraint and higher social security contributions may have captured newspaper headlines, the country's racing pigeon enthusiasts are facing a 455 per cent increase this year in the taxation of their hobby.

For the first time in nearly 50 years the tax levied on the rings worn by racing pigeons is going up. While most price increases in Belgium are linked to the cost of living, the Martens government's plan is to increase the tax on pigeon rings to five francs (6.5p) this year and 10 francs next—from only 1.10 francs.

Such an adjustment might appear unduly harsh, but it has provoked hardly a flutter of resentment in the pigeon fanciers' pubs.

In these establishments, where owners traditionally gather in smoke-filled rooms to discuss the future of their sport, there is in fact a general sense of relief. This is because, as a result of some persistent lobbying, the Martens government was persuaded to drop plans to levy taxes on racing bets as well.

● As a security measure the National Westminster Bank is suggesting to its customers that they should use smaller cheque books. Customers who ask for books containing 50 cheques now receive a polite letter pointing out that "there is a marked increase in the number of cheque books which are being reported stolen or lost and on many occasions these cheque books are finding their way into the hands of professional fraudsmen".

While unwilling to put any figure to the bank's losses, National Westminster's spokesman explained: "Most cheque books that are lost or stolen go with a cheque card. At £50 per cheque, a book of 25 cheques is worth £1,250 to a dishonest person who acquires it. A cheque book of 50 is worth £2,500. It is as simple as that."

He would not say that there had been any material improvement since the move to encourage the use of smaller cheque books started last July.

"If I said anything like that, it would only encourage them to be thinking of something else", he said, adding glumly: "I should have made it clear these people do not have to have a cheque card to get their hands on the proceeds. They are quite capable of knocking up cards of their own if necessary."

National Westminster can at least be complimented on the discretion with which they took this security step. The professional fraudsmen may have known all about it long ago, but yesterday the Banking Information Service confessed that they had never heard of it. Nor had National Westminster's competitors.

● The Economist Intelligence *Unit will have to rename itself* the Economist Irritation Unit if it publishes many more reports like No 92, *the latest from* the writer on matters monetary, David Phillips.

Entitled "Tax Savings for the Expatriate Executive and Manager in Western Europe", (EIU, £40), *the report* is undoubtedly full of intelligence, but is also replete with waspishness.

The British, thought of as "pragmatic and commonsensical", *display neither in tax* legislation, which Phillips says "is the most insanely complex of any country in Western Europe".

The British, he concludes in a review of five European nations, alone in the world conceive of tax as a *moral* question. He notes that scarcely a voice was raised in support of Enoch Powell after his Morecambe speech in which he advocated the halving of income tax.

The pussyfooting distinction between tax "avoidance" and "evasion" is not made in other languages and, while in English lay guides to not paying the Inland Revenue too much are given sedate titles like "Income Tax Guide", a comparable work in Belgium is called *Ne Payez rien de trop au fisc!* and in France *La défense de vos interets.*

Yet it is a one-sided morality, for as Phillips points out, the tax man says it is up to taxpayers *to claim their correct* allowances properly: if they do not, and pay too much tax, then it is just too bad.

● Tucked away at the back of the Earls Court Boat Show is something that might cause a shudder of apprehension among Britain's boatbuilders. It is the first sailing craft to be exhibited in Britain which bears the famous name of Yamaha.

But Harry Kalverboer, a Dutchman who is Yamaha's marine division manager in Europe, tells me that the company has no intention of flooding the European market with cheap mass-produced yachts. It will concentrate on quality rather than price and does not expect to sell more than five or ten boats a year in Britain.

Although sailing has become popular in Japan, its growth is limited by the strength of the fishermen's lobby which objects vociferously, and usually successfully, to any new proposed marina. Such is the shortage of berths that, at the so called Tokyo marina, boats are parked on shore at an annual rent of about £2,000; it costs £10 to have the vessel lifted into the water and another £10 to have it lifted out again.

A chap I know is still sensitive about being divorced so soon and so expensively after his marriage. He told me yesterday that he demurred at an invitation to be best man recently on the ground that a man should not play a star role in somebody else's marriage when he had but a cameo role in his own.

Ross Davies

Stock markets

Spending fears bring heavy selling of gilts

Confirmation of the Government's overspending brought a sharp shake-out in Government securities yesterday.

This came after a speech the previous evening by the Financial Secretary, Mr Nigel Lawson, who told the Zurich Society of Economists that the Government's borrowing requirement was likely to exceed the budgeted £11,500m.

As a result, heavy selling of gilts resumed yesterday, after overnight weakness, with prices generally closing at their low for the day. Even the money supply figures, which were as expected, with a 0.5 per cent increase, failed to lighten the load.

In longs, initial falls of £⅜ were extended to £⅝ despite attempts of a rally after hours. At the shorter end of the market, falls were restricted to around £⅛ in fairly light trade, although buyers did come in for the Treasury 15 per cent, 1985, unchanged at £105¼, ahead of going ex div today.

Meanwhile, the firmer trend continued in equities as bear closing produced a small technical rally and put a brake on the weakness which has been the main feature of this account. Oils also displayed a firmer appearance, but electricals faded after attempts at a rally earlier in the day.

Nevertheless, dealers still remain worried by the continual gloomy economic and industrial news which has successfully deterred investors and pulled share values steadily lower. But the thin conditions which prevailed were partly responsible for the rise in the *FT* Index of 2.5 to 448.5.

Leading industrials fluctuated in relatively narrow limits for most of the day and by the close displayed a mixed appearance. The two bright spots were **Grand Metropolitan**, up 7p at 145p after a healthy increase in the profits and dividend payment and accompanied by a property revaluation and **GKN** up 8p at 146p. This, in turn, brought a ripple of excitement to **Trusthouse Forte**, which reports next week, rising 4p to 179p.

Elsewhere, rises were seen in Glaxo, 2p to 248p, and Dunlop, 1p to 53p. But falls were witnessed in **ICI**, down 2p at 296p, Unilever, 3p to 438p, and **Blue Circle Industries**, 4p to 326p.

Business after hours saw details of a £59m bid for **United Dominions Trust** from the other big finance group, **Lloyds & Scottish**. Shares of UDT quickly rose 12p to 52p following the 55p-a-share offer, but Lloyds & Scottish retreated 4p to 142p.

An inquiry is expected into dealings as a result of heavy activity in the shares ahead of the announcement.

Also in financials, **London United Investments** expanded 16p to 185p, with **Mercantile House**, awaiting figure, 20p lower at 560p.

In shipping, shares of Stag Line returned from suspension 85p higher at 355p following terms of the bid from Hunting Gibson, while **Ropner Holdings**, with a 29 per cent stake in the former, hardened 5p to 174p having already agreed the terms. In the meantime, the seamen's strike had a depressing effect on European Ferries, down another 2p at 142½p.

Shares of Suter Electrical were suspended at 61p pending an announcement from the company. Dealers last night were anticipating the possibility of a reverse takeover.

The pending placing by broker Earnshaw Haes of Sonic Sound, the Tottenham Court Road video concern founded by Lionel and Sidney Astor, should it is thought, see 562,500 shares being made available to the market at a price of 80p a share.

Racal was a better market, climbing 4p to 288p, despite rumours of pending litigation in the United States which was discounted in most quarters. Others to show a recovery included **Farnell Electronics**, 2p to 344p, **Bowthorpe**, 6p to 154p and **Diploma**, 3p to 153p. But further selling appeared in **GEC**, down 6p at 575p, **BICC**, 1p at 163p, **Thorn EMI**, 4p to 288p and **Unitech**, 4p to 253p.

The heavy full-year loss and no dividend wiped 2p from Muirhead at 66p, with **Henry Wigfall** losing 5p at 131p for a similar reason.

The improvement in full-year profits and free share handout gave **S. & W. Berisford** a 6p fillip at 183p, but the profits contraction knocked **British Electric Traction** 5p to 119p.

But most trading statements made depressing reading yesterday. **Dixons Photographic** ended all square at 138p, but **Associated Paper Industries** fell 1p to 27p and **Woodrow Wyatt** 2p to 20p.

Magnet & Southerns continued to reap the benefit of recent good figures, climbing 3p to 119p.

Massey Ferguson was a weak market, tumbling 30p to 135p as the loan talks to guarantee its liquidity continued. **Rentokil** slipped 6p to 162p as fears grew of a link between cancer and one of its major products.

Speculative buying was good for a 10p rise in **Cornell Dresses** at 78p, while **R. P. Martin** jumped 18p to 138p for a similar reason.

Greycoat Properties advanced 12p to 175p on speculative support, while **Hales Properties** rose 2p to 110p and **Country & New Town** hardened 3p to 58p, both after interim statements. Little interest was shown amongst the rest of the property sector, although a fall of 5p was seen in **Hammerson "A"** at 590p.

Unigate's decision to sell its baby food activities to a Dutch concern led to a 3p rise at 100p, with **British Sugar** 7p dearer at 253p after the annual meeting. **Somportex** leapt 55p in a thin market and **Tate & Lyle**, with figures next week, rose 2p to 138p.

Oils staged a small recovery in fairly thin trade. **BP** rose 6p to 392p, **Shell** 4p to 444p, **Ultramar** 7p to 488p, **Tricentrol** 2p to 306p and **Burmah** 2p to 179p. **Lasmo** again benefited from the latest drilling report from the Thelma Field, hardening 8p to 717p.

Equity turnover on January 14 was £118.982m (15,191 bargains). **Active stocks** yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were: GMH, Racal, GKN, BSR, Beecham, ICI, BP, Premier, GEC, Barclays Bank, Bass, Charterhouse Pet, IC Gas, Plessey and Thorn EMI.

Traded Options: Total contracts amounted to only 647, with Grand Metropolitan on 270 following figures.

Traditional options saw further calls in several oil shares, including Charterhall at 10p, Burmah at 17p, and Charterhouse at 9p.

Latest results

Company Int or Fin	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
Assoc Paper (F)	44.7(44.6)	0.35(1.95)	2.0(12.53)	0.79(2.44)	2/3	2(3.65)
S. & W. Berisford (F)	2,452(2,170)	36.1(32.2)	28(27.7)	6.5(5)	7/4	9.7(7.5)
BET (I)	444(384)	27.9(30.4)	7.4(10.5)	1.8(1.8)	9/4	—(7.57)
C'try & Nw Town (I)	—(—)	0.96(0.55)	—(—)	0.25(0.2)	15/4	—(0.75)
Dixons Photo (I)	114(116)	5.01(5.92)	—(—)	1.3(1.25)	2/3	—(3.33)
Grand Met (F)	2,582(2,170)	152(136)	23.3(21.8)	3.7(3.2)	6/3	6.6(5.7)
Hales Props (I)	0.54(0.37)	0.23(0.19)	5.0(4.8)	1.0(1.0)	5/3	—(3.5)
Muirhead (F)	25.15(22.51)	2.24*(0.91)	25.2*(17.9)	—(1.8)	—	—(4.0)
H. Wigfall (I)	22.3(22.2)	0.063(0.26)	—(—)	—(3.0)	—	—(13.5)
Woodrow Wyatt (I)	3.77(3.46)	0.024*(0.18)	0.9*(3.7)	0.5(1.0)	—	—(2.5)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. * Loss.

Shares of Strata leap on rumours of gas find

By Philip Robinson

Shares of Australian oil exploration stocks Strata Oil soared 31p at one point yesterday before easing to a new year's closing peak of 224p on rumours of a substantial gas strike.

The shares had already jumped 53 cents to a record A$4.35 overnight in Sydney and were being quoted in London before trading started 21p higher at 212p.

Behind the rise were unconfirmed reports that 3 trillion cubic feet of gas had been found in Woodada Three, the last of three wells in the onshore Perth Basin area in which Strata has a 26.95 per cent stake and the private Texas-based conglomerate Hughes and Hughes has 65 per cent.

Much of Strata's price rise on the London market came after 2 pm in expectation of heavy American buying. But Perth-based Strata, which has put out regular Monday morning bulletins on the progress of drilling, was reported by foreign sources as being unavailable for comment. Its last statement was on January 12 when it reported that drilling had been completed on Woodada Three and testing was planned for this weekend.

In London, stockbrokers experienced in Australian stocks were cautiously underlining the lack of confirmation. Unconfirmed estimates of Woodada Three's capabilities put the oil production capacity at 3,000 barrels a day and informed sources say that there could prove to be up to 4,000m cubic feet of gas.

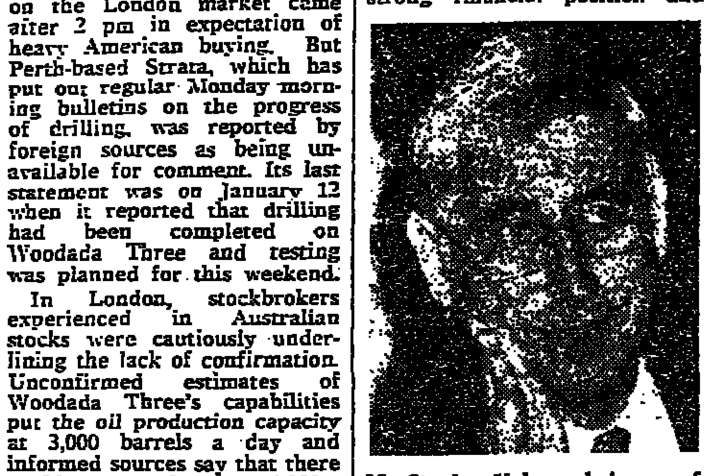
Dixons down 15pc in first half, but dividend raised

By Richard Allen

Dixons Photographic, the film processing, retail electronics and wholesale pharmaceuticals group, disappointed the market yesterday with news of pretax profits down 15 per cent to just over £5m in the six months to November 8.

The shares fell 4p to 127p on the announcement. But Mr Stanley Kalms, the chairman, took a different view of the outcome saying that he viewed the figures "with some satisfaction", especially as they included redundancy and reorganization costs totalling £542,000.

He said that the board had decided to increase the dividend by 5 per cent to 1.9p gross "in view of the group's strong financial position and prospects". And he added: "The group remains committed to an intense programme of improving efficiency and of expansion, and is not deterred by present transitory economic circumstances".



Mr Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons Photographic.

This expansionary thrust has seen the group opening consumer electronics stores at the rate of 25 a year. Its retail division now has 231 branches and the ultimate target is about 450.

The £542,000 reorganization costs incurred in the retail division helped to cut profits there from £2.4m to £1.5m on turnover up from £41m to £45.5m. Meanwhile, further increases in Dixons' share of the film processing market saw profits rise more than a fifth to £1.34m, on a turnover leap of about a third to £8.8m.

At the same time the pharmaceuticals division, which made losses of almost £600,000 in the last full year, returned to a fractional profit.

The biggest divisional setback came overseas with profits more than halved to £477,000. The blame is placed chiefly on the American retail operation, which saw profits and margins slashed as a result of a sharp fall in demand.

The group is hoping for at least a marginal upturn in the United States soon, but remains less optimistic about the immediate outlook in the United Kingdom, despite what it describes as a good Christmas trading period.

In its last full year Dixons profits edged up from £10.7m to £10.9m.

Briefly

Icelandic issue: Hambros Bank reports that the Republic of Iceland £15m 14½ per cent stock 2016 has been placed with United Kingdom and overseas institutions. The stock is payable as to £20.00 per cent per £100.00 nominal of stock on acceptance, with the balance due by March 27 1981. Hambros Bank managed and underwrote the placing. Rowe & Pitman and W. Greenwell & Co acted as brokers to the placing. Application has been made to list the stock on the London Stock Exchange.

Hales Properties: Sales for half-year to September 30, 1980, up from £371,000 to £543,000; pretax profits up from £190,000 to £235,000. Interim dividend unchanged.

Barrow Hepburn takeover: Barrow Hepburn has acquired Cradley Rubber of Lye, Stourbridge, for £225,000.

Ace Belmont International: Turnover for year to August 31, 1980, £34.05m (£28.01m). Pretax profits, £611,000 (£2.07m). Equity is all privately held.

Kennings Estates (equity all held by Kenning Motor): Turnover for year to September 30, 1980, £1.8m (£1.77m). Pretax profits, £3.04m (£1.8m). Properties revalued at September 30, disclosing surplus of £9.45m.

Independent Investment Co: Pretax income for half year to December 31, 1980, £154,000. Results for the half-year to December 31, 1979, not comparable. Earnings should not be taken as an indication for the full year.

Tecalemit: Tecalemit's offer for Orbit Controls now unconditional. Acceptances received for 99.3 per cent.

Greenfriar Investment: Gross revenue for year to December 31, 1980, £264,000 (£324,000). Dividend unchanged at 2.85p gross.

Tomkinsons Carpets: Board reports that the outlook for 1981 is reasonably optimistic. Company is experiencing some revival in rug sales, particularly in Oriental and Berber styles.

Capro: The private investment company which has said it may mount a rival bid to Hanson Trust's £13m takeover approach for Central Manufacturing & Trading has acquired a further 120,000 shares at 51.25p. This brings its stake to 20.6 per cent.

Palabora, the South African copper mine 39 per cent owned by Rio Tinto-Zinc, raised output last year by 3,000 tonnes to 114,000. Sales however were only up by about 400,000 tonnes to 113,000 tonnes. Higher production was achieved despite a fall in the average copper grade to 0.48 per cent. But a depressed uranium market kept sales down to 96,000 kilogrammes, compared with 129,000 in 1979.

Colmore Investments: Chairman of Nesco Investments, Mr Trevor Trefgarne, has written to members of Colmore urging acceptance of the Nesco offer that has been extended to January 28. He says that acceptances to January 13 totalled 390,817 shares. With 731,883 purchased before the offer and 400,000 bought since, they have 38.1 per cent of the Colmore capital.

MONEY SUPPLY

Figures released for the monthly amount of money stock seasonally adjusted at the mid-month dates.

	M1 £000m	Sterling M3 £000m	Private sector liquidity
1979			
Dec	27.7	56.8	105.4
1980			
Jan	27.7	56.3	106.1
Feb	27.3	56.6	107.0
March	27.6	56.9	108.0
April	27.5	57.1	108.8
May	27.6	58.5	110.9
June	28.6	58.7	111.6
July	28.2	61.7	113.3
Aug	28.3	63.5	115.1
Sept	28.5	63.9	115.6
Oct	28.7	65.1	117.5
Nov	28.8	66.4	118.4
Dec	29.3	66.8	120.3

Monthly change in sterling M3 and domestic credit expansion £millions

	Domestic credit expansion	External finance	Non-deposit liabilities	Sterling M3
1980				
Jan	+ 738	—104	—149	+ 465
Feb	+ 270	— 57	+117	+ 330
March	+ 717	—230	—185	+ 302
April	- 701	—342	—143	+ 216
May	+1,149	+246	—146	+1,249
June	+1,368	—843	— 79	+ 447
July	+3,466	—207	—305	+2,954
Aug	+2,011	—119	— 66	+1,826
Sept	+ 967	—564	— 13	+ 380
Oct	+1,123	+309	—163	+1,268
Nov	+1,431	—194	+129	+1,366
Dec	+ 761	—261	—142	+ 358

No Muirhead payout after £2m loss

By Margareta Pagano

High technology specialists Muirhead shocked the City yesterday with news of heavy losses and the passing of its dividend for the year to September. The shares, which last year peaked at 272p, fell 15p to 53p but lifted to 66p by the close.

The defence components and data facsimile equipment manufacturer, headed by Sir Raymond Brown, reported a pretax loss of £2.24m compared with profits last year of £911,000. Sales were marginally higher at £25.15m against £22.5m.

The main problem, said Mr Donald Buchanan, company secretary, was the closure of the Morden rotary components factory which had been badly hit by squeezed profit margins, high overhead costs, and excess production capacity. The bulk of the factories' work has been transferred to its long-established Beckenham plant, where output was briefly disrupted by productions problems. The closure costs were included in the £651,000 of extraordinary losses which also covered redundancy costs. The cuts in the 1,600 workforce, mainly at Morden, meant the loss of 400 jobs.

Although sub-contracting orders from Muirhead's customers, such as Plessey, GEC and Ferranti, were "reasonable", the real problems were those of costs and excess capacity, he said. And selling through its overseas subsidiaries, in France and Germany in particular, was hit by the strength of sterling and exchange losses. The overseas trading loss was £501,000 against profits last time of £82,000. Many foreign customers switched to more competitive products.

Sir Raymond Brown, chairman of Muirhead.

A critical review of the group's valuation of stocks gave a provision of £977,000 for the year, and an additional £1.1m has been treated as prior-years adjustments. Rapidly changing technology is fast making stocks obsolete, and the group is changing its accounting policy.

Demand was weak throughout the year for its data communications and facsimile equipment, which contributes 45 per cent of sales—with customers proving reluctant to invest during a recession. Higher interest rates of £1.07m against £578,000 reflected increased borrowings up by about £1m to £6m in the year. Capital expenditure was negligible.

Against this background, Mr Buchanan declined to forecast for the current year but indicated that the worst, with the Morden closure, was now over.

Wigfall slumps in first half

By Margareta Pagano

High borrowings and depressed trading continued to beset the electrical retailer Henry Wigfall at the halfway stage. Its decision to pass the interim dividend despite cost reductions and lower borrowings is a sign of caution.

Pre-tax profits fell to £63,000 in the six months to October compared with £269,000 last time. Sales crept ahead to £22.3m, against £22.2m, reflecting the worst trading period, which started last April the group has experienced. But this disguises real growth in trading profits, which rose to £4.62m, against £4.33m last time.

Depreciations charges were higher at £3m and interest charges advanced to £1.48m, compared with £1.24m. The interim dividend last time was 4.28p gross. The share price, which has tumbled a long way from last year's high of 250p, dropped 5p to 151p on the news.

In line with aims set out last year by Mr Michael Abbott, the chairman, that borrowings must be lowered, the group has seen a £3m reduction to £10m since the last year end to March. A further £1m is expected to be knocked off the total by this year end.

Rationalization plans introduced last year to cut costs and widen the group's product range included the closure of 18 shops and 250 redundancies. These measures continue, but Wigfall indicates that it has seen "reasonable" trading patterns pick up since October with Christmas trading noticeably better.

So long as sales, margins and costs are maintained at present levels it expects to pay a final dividend. Last year's final was 15p gross, making a total of 19.3p.

Mr Richard Morrell, the managing director, said yesterday that passing the dividend was a cautious move at this stage, despite the indications that trading was recovering. Profits from the second half of the year are usually higher but real recovery is not expected before 1981 to 1982. The group's six fashion shops are faring worse than its electrical outlets. He added that no bid rumours had reached Wigfall recently, after speculation last October that Currys might be looking at the group. Three years ago Wigfall carried out a successful takeover defence against Comet.

Last year profits were £1.08m on sales of £44.25m.

Crest Int seeks USM quote

Crest International Securities, whose quotation was suspended in 1974, plans to apply for its capital, issued and to be issued, to be traded in the Unlisted Securities Market.

Crest announced yesterday that it is acquiring Tom Farmer, a property investment company, owned by Mr Tom Farmer, a director of Crest, and his wife, for £993,000, being its net asset value. The consideration will be the issue of 9.93 million ordinary 10p shares, 1.41 million of which are being placed. The balance will be retained by Mr and Mrs Farmer. Crest is also buying Parben, a property group, for £225,000 in 2.25 million 10p shares.

Crest is raising £1.3m (after expenses) by a placing of 14 million ordinary 10p shares at par and a subscription of a further 1 million ordinaries of 10p each for cash at par by Mr Alec Stenson, the Crest chairman. The 14 million ordinaries, together with the 1.41 million shares from the vendors of Farmer, are being placed by Henry Cooke, Lumsden, brokers to Crest.

Woodrow Wyatt hit by strikes

After tumbling into the red in the first half of its year, Woodrow Wyatt Holdings, the printing group, is halving its interim dividend to 0.71p gross.

In spite of turnover increasing from £3.46m to £3.77m in the six months to September 30, 1980, the group sustained a pretax loss of £25,000, compared with a profit of £187,000 last time. In the first two months of its year, the group was beset by strikes nationally by the NGA. Losses approaching £100,000 were incurred. Without this, trading profits (before interest) would have been higher than the first half of last year.

Country & New Town first-half jump

Having produced almost trebled results in 1979-80, Country and New Town Properties is still making strides. In the half-year to July 31, 1980, pretax profits jumped by 75 per cent to £964,000. In the preceding full year, pretax profits climbed to a best-ever £2.19m.

Raising the interim dividend, gross, from 0.28p to 0.35p, Mr G. M. Newton, the chairman, reports that the Miami apartments made a notable contribution to the half-year's figures. Of the 160 flats originally available for sale, only 10 now remain.

Last year's profits included the benefit from the sale of one of the group's Canadian properties, but the chairman hopes to report "satisfactory results" for the current year.

Royal Bank profits warning

At the Royal Bank of Scotland's annual meeting, Sir Michael Herries, the chairman, reported that, inevitably, declining interest rates and reduced loan demand will affect bank profits in the short-term. But the fall in inflation and the "establishment of a firm foundation for economic growth" should, he said, bring in due course more lasting benefits to the industry.

C. & J. Clark has 58 pc of K Shoes

On January 14, C. & J. Clark held acceptances for 13.77m new ordinary shares and the same number of deferred shares in K Shoes. This is 58.4 per cent of the new ordinaries and deferred shares for which the agreed offers were made. Clark also has acceptances for 93.7 per cent of the preference.

The offers remain open, but the acceptances are conditional on the takeover not being referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Net loss of £3.9m at API

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Closure and redundancy costs, trading losses from discontinued operations and lower demand pushed Associated Paper Industries deep into the red in the year to September 27. The final dividend has been cut by over two-thirds.

At the pretax level API still showed a profit of £352,000, reduced from £1.95m. But after £3.9m of extraordinary costs and much-reduced dividends, there was a £3.9m net loss to be written off reserves compared with retentions of £1.1m the previous year.

The closure of the two loss-making paper mills, Cooke & Nuttall and Vale Board Mills, leaves API with one specialized paper mill compared with seven in the early 1960s and completes the transition to a group mainly involved in paper converting and with interests in stamping foils. No further closures are expected, although there may be modest cuts in the workforce, which was down by a third to just over 1,000 last year.

These continuing operations still made a pretax profit of £1.39m compared with £2.06m in the previous year after the rise in interest charges from £365,000 to £768,000. Out of £44.7m sales, continuing operations contributed £33.0

Mr Charles Rawlinson, the chairman, felt the group had reached the bottom. "We're not going to the wall", he said, adding that demand had stabilized. However, he left no doubt that this year would be difficult and with the group finding it hard to make profits in the present climate, he would not comment on prospects for the dividend, which was reduced from 5.2p gross to 2.86p.

Tin agreement extended

By Michael Prest
Mining Correspondent

After months of wrangling, the International Tin Council has agreed to extend the Fifth International Tin Pact by another year from July 1. It is hoped that the move will buy sufficient time to obtain a sixth agreement. The existing agreement would have expired on June 30.

Discussions on a new agreement were held in Geneva last month but broke down on whether there should be a buffer stock, the stock's size and the continuation of export controls. The United States was particularly insistent that there should be a buffer stock big enough to make controls unnecessary.

The discussions have come at a difficult time. Tin prices have fallen sharply in the last few days, the London Metal Exchange three-month contract closing at £6,160 a tonne yesterday.

One factor overhanging the market has been the decision by the United States General Services Administration to sell 30,000 tonnes of the metal from its stockpile. No sizeable sales have yet been made, however.

Business appointments

New Telecom post for Mr Ford

Mr Michael Ford, deputy director of Prestel, British Telecom's viewdata service, has been made chairman of Wales and the Marches regional board of British Telecom from February 25. He succeeds Mr Ken Sparlock, who retired on February 24 after four years as chairman.

Mr John Evison has been made a director of Miller Buckley Civil Engineering.

Mr William Fairhall has the London Transport new post of director of finance and planning, in which he will combine the responsibilities for corporate planning and central financial functions.

Mr J. L. Wyatt is now assistant managing director of Amalgamated Power Engineering.

Mr David Pawlyn has been joined to the board of Group 4 Total Security. Dr Edward Hope is now on the board of the holding company, Group 4 Securities.

Mr Alexander S. Reid has joined the board of Moorgate Investment Company.

Mr Glen H. Wilson is now company secretary of H. Sichel & Sons.

Mr H. Rainer Vogt has joined the board of Hammerson Property and Investment.

Mr John Varde is now director of operations, Plessey Aerospace.

Mr Haydn Griffiths is now director of supplies and transport, British Gas, from February 1.

Mr D. L. Gomme has succeeded Mr H. N. Sporborg as chairman of Gomme Holdings.

Mr J. C. Bruce and Mr J. P. Webb have become associate directors of Cornelius Chemical Company from February 1 this year.

Mr R. C. I. Bate is now managing director of GPG International, a Guinness plastics subsidiary, in place of Mr R. Lewis, who is to retire early for health reasons. Mr Lewis will remain a director of GPG until June 30.

Mr R. B. Carter has been made managing director, marketing, of Humphreys & Glasgow.

Mr Douglas Kitchen has joined the board of Steinberg Group.

Mr James E. Schilling has been named international sales manager of the computer and instrumentation division of the Westinghouse Electric Corporation. He will be based initially in Hitchin.

Mr Robert A. Chereck has been transferred from Dallas to join First National Bank in Dallas' London branch as deputy general manager.

Mr Jan Schothorst has been made area manager, UK and managing director of Alusuisse (UK) Limited with immediate effect. He succeeds Mr Dennis Fredjohn.

Mr W. J. Durrans is now commercial director, retail, in the consumer foods division of CPC (United Kingdom) Limited. He succeeds Mr R. A. (Tony) Garvey, who takes up the new post of director, corporate development.

Mr Roger D. Perkins is the new managing director of Brunel Cases. Mr Charles Eatwell is now sales director of the company.

Mr Geoffrey Breakell, Mr David Moss, and Mr Michael V. Smith become assistant general managers of Refuge Assurance Company from April 1.

Mr Michael Alexandra has been made marketing manager and a director of the Bridon subsidiary, British Ropes.

Mr C. H. Parker and Mr P. J. Bryom have become part-time members of the board of British Shipbuilders. Mr W. Richardson has been reappointed as a part-time member. All three will serve for two years from January 1.

Mr Anthony S. Heal is to relinquish his position of chairman and managing director of Heal and Son Holdings on February 28. He will become a non-executive director and retain the title "Head of the Business" previously held by his father, the late Sir Ambrose Heal. The board has elected Mr Oliver S. Heal to be chairman and managing director to take office on March 1. Mr Oliver Heal is chairman of Heal and Son Limited, the retail division and the group management committee.

Mr C. Stanley Vaughan and Mr Gordon H. Riddle have been made directors of Barton Abrasives.

Sir James Menter, has been made a director of Steetley.

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Crdts	14%
C. Hoare & Co	*14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
Rossminster	14%
TSB	14%
Williams and Glyn's	14%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 11½%, up to £50,000 12%, over £50,000 12½%.

Hongkong code may be amended

The Hongkong Securities Commission said yesterday that the company takeover code should have a clause that would require shareholders owning 35 per cent of a company's issued share capital to make a general offer to other shareholders.

The acquisition of shares between 35 and 50 per cent should be limited to 3 per cent in any 12-month period without requiring the purchaser to make a general bid, it said in a statement.

At present the takeover code has a voluntary trigger point of 50 per cent, with no legal backing.

Dealers said they were unsure how the commission intended to require shareholders to make a general offer to others. They also noted that there was no mention of legislation to back up the code.

International

Expansion at ICI Australia

A £187m development programme is outlined in the annual report for 1980 of ICI Australia, the local subsidiary of Imperial Chemical Industries.

Plans include expansion of the plant in Sydney and the building of plastics and fabrics factories in Melbourne.

Net profit of ICI Australia fell by about £1.37m in the year to about £34m.

German utility lower

Group net profits of Rheinisch-Westfälisches Elektrizitätswerk, the West German public utility, fell to DM489m (about (£100m), against DM570m, in the year to June 30. Group turnover advanced to DM18,260m from DM15,670m.

Parent company net profit was virtually unchanged at DM389m on turnover of DM9,700m against DM9,000m.

Group profit per share was DM20.48, compared with DM 19.74 the year before.

KLM load factor up

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines said its provisonal load factor rose to 60.3 per cent in December from 56.9 per cent in December 1979 and compared with 60.2 per cent in November last year.

Dow share purchase

Dow Chemical Co plans to purchase 1.9 million shares of its stock over the next several quarters.

The company said it would buy the shares to cover stock issued to employees through stock option and purchase plans.

New Life Business

Guardian Royal: Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance's total United Kingdom new annual premiums for 1980 showed an increase of 8 per cent compared with 1979 and reached £26.8m (£24.9m in 1979), while new United Kingdom single premiums were 3 per cent up at £15.8m (£15.3m). Net new sums assured in the United Kingdom were 25 per cent higher at £2,535m (£2.024m), while new annuities grew by 15 per cent to £86.8m (£75.7m). New annual premiums for United Kingdom group scheme business included in these figures were £15m (£13.6m), an increase of 10 per cent, although single premiums were lower at £1.4m (£2.6m). GRE's world-wide figures, which are significantly distorted by changes in currency rates of exchange, were new annual premiums, £36.3m (£35m), new single premiums, £19.4m (£19.9m), new sums assured, £3,298m (£2,875m) and new annuities per annum, £90.2m (£78.4m). Particularly notable were the results for Republic of Ireland and Australia where, in local currency terms, new annual premiums increased by 44 per cent and 32 per cent respectively.

Yorkshire-General: Yorkshire-General, the life company of General Accident, announces net news sums assured for 1980 of £1,390m (£1,051m in 1979) of which £940m (705m) was in respect of ordinary life business and £450m (£346m) in respect of pensions business. In addition, immediate annuities of £0.6m per annum (£0.8m), deferred annuities of £22.8m per annum (£21.6m) and permanent health benefits of £5.1m per annum (£4.4m) were written. New annual premiums amounted to £9.8m (£8.7m) of which £4.3m (£3.8m) was in respect of ordinary life business, £5.4m (£4.8m) in respect of pensions business and £0.15m (£0.12m) in respect of permanent health business. Immediate annuity considerations and non-recurring single premiums totalled £5.3m (£6.3m).

The Over-the-Counter Market

1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div(p)	Yld %	P/E
75	39	Airsprung Group	63	—	6.7	10.6	5.7
39	21	Armitage & Rhodes	38	+1	1.4	3.6	15.6
192	92½	Bardon Hill	189	—	9.7	5.1	7.1
87	46	County Cars Pref	46	—	7.6	16.5	—
98	88	Deborah Services	95	—	5.5	5.7	4.7
126	88	Frank Horsell	116xd	—	6.4	5.0	3.6
110	59	Frederick Parker	58	—	11.0	18.0	2.6
110	74	George Blair	76	—	3.1	4.0	—
110	59	Jackson Group	109	−1	6.9	6.3	4.1
124	103	James Burrough	120	—	7.9	6.0	9.8
330	244	Robert Jenkins	330	—	31.3	9.5	—
53	50	Scruttons 'A'	53	—	5.3	10.0	3.8
224	216	Torday Limited	219	—	15.1	6.9	3.7
23	10	Twinlock Ord	13½	—	—	—	—
90	69	Twinlock 15% ULS	77	−1	15.0	19.4	—
56	35	Unilock Holdings	35	−1	3.0	8.5	5.4
102	81	Walter Alexander	102	—	5.7	5.5	5.6
255	181	W. S. Yeates	253	—	12.1	4.8	4.1

MARKET REPORTS

Commodities

COPPER was steady.—Afternoon.—Cash wire bars, £789-90 a metric ton; three months, £812.50-13. Sales, 4,075. Cash cathodes, £767-69; three months, £792-93. Sales, 800 tons (all carries). Morning.—Cash wire bars, £782-83; three months, £805.50-06. Settlement, £783. Sales, 10,520 tons (mainly carries). Cash cathodes, £760-61; three months, £785.50-86. Settlement, £761. Sales, 1,050 tons (mainly carries).

TIN was very steady.—Afternoon.—Standard cash, £6,015-20 a tonne; three months, £6,160-70. Sales, 575 tonnes (about half carries). High grade, cash, £6,015-20; three months, £6,160-70. Sales, nil tonnes. Morning.—Standard cash, £6,010-15; three months, £6,140-45. Settlement, £6,015. Sales, 275 tonnes. High grade, cash, £6,010-15; three months, £6,140-50. Settlement, £6,015. Sales, nil tonnes. Singapore tin ex-works, $M31.90 a picul.

LEAD was steady.—Afternoon.—Cash, £290.50-91.50 per tonne; three months, £302.50-303. Sales, 25,400 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £290.50-91; three months, £301.50-03. Settlement, £291. Sales, 5,500 tonnes (about half carries).

ZINC was barely steady.—Afternoon.—Cash, £328-29 per tonne; three months, £340.50-341. Sales, 11,225 tonnes (mainly carries). Morning.—Cash, £330-31; three months, £342.50-43. Settlement, £331. Sales, 3,950 tonnes (mainly carries).

PLATINUM was at £232.45 ($558.50) a troy ounce.

SILVER was very steady.—Bullion market (fixing levels).—Spot 631.70p per troy ounce (United States cents equivalent, 1,514.80); three months 653.30p (1,584.40c); six months, 675.30p (1,645.40c); one year 715.80p (1,747.30c). London Metal Exchange.—Afternoon.—Cash 645-46p; three months 667-68p. Sales, 104 lots of 10,000 troy ounces each. Morning.—Cash, 629-30p; three months, 651-52p. Settlement, 630p. Sales, 84 lots (mainly carries).

ALUMINIUM was barely steady.—Afternoon.—Cash, £599-600 per tonne; three months £620-21. Sales, 2,600 tonnes. Morning.—Cash £601-03; three months £622-22.50. Settlement, £603. Sales, 3,675 tonnes.

NICKEL was steady.—Afternoon.—Cash £2,640-45 per tonne; three months £2,635-40. Sales, 136 tonnes. Morning.—Cash £2,637-40; three months £2,637-40. Settlement, £2,640. Sales, 456 tonnes.

RUBBER was uncertain (pence per kilo).—Feb, 58.00-58.50; March, 59.80-59.90; April-June, 62.20-62.40; July-Sept, 65.20-65.30; Oct-Dec, 68.20-68.30; Jan-March, 71.20-71.30; April-June, 74.20-74.30; July-Sept, 77.10-77.20; Oct-Dec, 80.20-80.60. Sales 44 lots at five tonnes; 382 at 15 tonnes.

RUBBER PHYSICALS were about steady (all pence per kilo).—Spot, 57.25-58.75; Cifs, Feb, 61.50-62.00; March, 62.25-62.50.

COFFEE.—ROBUSTAS (£ per tonne): Jan, 1,045-46; March, 1,060-61; May, 1,075-76; July, 1,094-85; Sept, 1,095-98; Nov, 1,102-03; Jan, 1,102-10. Sales: 2,358 lots including 10 options.

ARABICA (officials at 1645): Feb, 143.00-43.75; April, 145.50-47.00; June, 146.50-48.00; Aug, 148.00-49.00; Oct, 146.50-49.50; Dec, 145.75-49.00; Feb, 146.00-48.00.

COCOA was about steady (£ per metric ton).—March, 864-70; May, 892-94; July, 916-17; Sept, 938-39; Dec, 968-69; March, 991-92; May, 1,010-14. Sales: 1,862 lots including three options.

SUGAR.—The London daily price of "raws" was £8 higher at £290.00; the "whites" price was £7 higher at £310.00. Futures were quiet (£ per tonne): March, 299.50-300.00; May, 298.75-98.95; Aug, 291.50-91.60; Oct, 283.25-83.75; Jan, 261.00-61.50; March, 258.00-62.00; May, 255.00-60.00. Sales: 7,398 lots. ISA prices (Jan 14): daily 26.85c; 15-day average 29.93c.

SOYABEAN MEAL was easier (£ per tonne).—Feb, 127.00-27.40; April, 129.10-29.40; June, 131.50-31.60; Aug, 132.50-33.30; Oct, 130.00-30.50; Dec, 130.60-32.00; Feb, 130.00-36.00. Sales, 360 lots.

WOOL (cents per kilo).—NZ crossbreds No 2 contract was quiet: Jan, 343-345; March, 350-354; May, 355-362; Aug, 368-372; Oct, 370-375; Dec, 378-380; Jan, 378-381; March, 380-383; May, 382-386. Sales, 18 lots.

GRAIN (The Baltic).—WHEAT.—Canadian western red spring was unquoted: US dark northern spring No 2 14 per cent: Feb, £111.25; March £111.75 trans-shipment east coast; US hard winter 13½ per cent: Feb, £106.00; March, £106.50 trans-shipment east coast; EEC was unquoted; English feed fob Feb, £108.25; April/June, £115.50 east coast.

MAIZE: US/French unquoted French Jan £121.00; Feb £122.00 east coast; S African yellow Feb/March, £89.50.

BARLEY: English feed fob Jan, £100.25; £101.25; March £103.50; April, £106.75 east coast. (All per tonne cif UK unless stated).

London Grain Futures Market (Gafta). EEC origin.—BARLEY was steady: Jan, £95.65; March, £98.35; May, £102.30; Sept, £96.30; Nov, £100.05. Sales, 103 lots. WHEAT was steady: Jan, £104.65; March, £107.65; May, £111.55; July, £115.80; Sept, £101.15; Nov, £104.90. Sales, 167 lots.

Home-Grown Cereals Authority.—Location ex-farm spot prices:

	Other Milling WHEAT	Feed WHEAT	Feed BARLEY
S East	—	£103.00	£97.20
S West	—	£102.40	£95.90
W Midland	£105.90	£100.80	£94.00
N West	—	£104.30	£97.50

The UK monetary coefficient for the week beginning Monday January 19 is expected to change to 0.865.

MEAT COMMISSION.—Average fatstock prices at representative markets on Dec 15: GB cattle 85.44p per kg lw (+1.65); UK sheep 154.01p per kg est dcw (−5.89); GB pigs 67.08p per kg lw (+1.99). England and Wales: Cattle numbers down 10.6 per cent, average price 85.69p (+1.21); Sheep numbers down 17.8 per cent, average price 152.68p (−6.04); Pig numbers up 3.8 per cent, average price 67.08p (+1.99). Scotland: Cattle numbers up 5.3 per cent, average price 83.62p (+2.98); Sheep numbers down 11.6 per cent, average price 133.26p (−1.36).

POTATOES (Gafta).—Feb, £49.80; April, £62.60; Nov, £53.90. Sales 69 lots (all of 40 tonnes each).

Doubts over Indian tea pact

Two West German tea traders in New Delhi were quoted yesterday as saying that tea consumer countries were sceptical about an international tea agreement on export quotas proposed by India, Sri Lanka and Kenya.

Herr Ronald Nissle and Herr Helmut Grosser, chairman and managing director respectively of the West German Tea Council, were quoted as saying that a consensus among tea exporting countries on the proposed pact was unlikely in the near future.

The two traders, who were attending a tea seminar in India, said that the German tea trade is dependent on the Indian tea market, but faces difficulties over delayed shipments and deterioration in tea quality in the past 10 years.

Dearer chemicals

Shell Chemicals UK is to increase the price of its expandable polystyrene products by about 15 per cent, because of higher raw material prices.

Discount market

Credit conditions became much tighter in the discount market yesterday. Houses were up against a sizable shortage which was only relieved after the Bank of England had assisted on a very large scale.

This help was channelled via the purchases of a moderate amount of Treasury Bills, a small quantity of local authority bills, and a small number of commercial bank bills direct from the houses.

Secured loans were generally at 13¾-½ per cent during the day.

Foreign exchange report

Ahead of today's United Kingdom trade figures the pound remained firm in currency markets yesterday, reaching 2.4055 before closing below its best at 2.4015 against the dollar compared with 2.3970 overnight.

Its trade-weighted average rose to 79.7 from 79.4. However, volume continued modest. The latest banking figures made no impact.

Aided by higher Eurodollar rates, the dollar resumed its upward trend against Europeans, with sentiment also benefiting from renewed hopes for the Iranian hostages, and the prospect of higher United States money supply figures today. The mark declined to 2.0010 before closing off the bottom at 1.9990 (1.9925). Others losing ground to the dollar included the Swiss franc 1.8120 (1.8057), guilder, 2.1732 (2.1657), and French franc, 4.6267 (4.6090).

Steady for much of the session, reflecting Tokyo's closure for a public holiday, the yen rose late to 201.75 from 202.95 previously in dollar terms.

Sterling: Spot and Forward

	Market rates (day's range) January 15	Market rates (close) January 15	1 month	3 months
New York	$2.3970-4080	$2.4010-4020	1.15-1.25c disc	2.60-2.70c disc
Montreal	$2.8560-8650	$2.8570-8580	.85-.95c disc	1.75-1.90c disc
Amsterdam	5.20-24fl	5.22-23fl	2½-1½c prem	6½-5½c prem
Brussels	77.00-45f	77.20-30f	20-10c prem	44-34c prem
Copenhagen	14.75-82k	14.76-77k	105-150ore prem	50ore prem-130ore disc
Dublin	1.2785-2870p	1.2805-2815p	11p prem-2p prem	27-10p prem
Frankfurt	4.79½-82½m	4.80-81m	2½-1½pf prem	6½-5½pf prem
Lisbon	128.40-129.30e	128.70-90e	0.01-0.70c disc	25-180c disc
Madrid	193.20-194.00p	193.25-35p	30-90c disc	180-265c disc
Milan	2271-86lr	2281½-82½lr	3-5lr disc	16¼-19¼lr disc
Oslo	12.45-52k	12.48½-49½k	535-360ore prem	1160-980ore prem
Paris	11.09-14f	11.11-12f	4-3c prem	9¼-8¼c prem
Stockholm	10.62½-67½k	10.64¼-65¾k	360-460ore disc	1160-1260ore disc
Tokyo	482-90y	483½-84½y	310-240y prem	765-690y prem
Vienna	33.90-34.10sch	33.97-34.02sch	0.08-0.05gro prem	0.2895-0.2300gro prem
Zurich	4.34-37½f	4.35-36f	3½-2½c prem	9¼-8¼c prem

Effective exchange rate compared to December 21, 1971, was up 0.3% to 79.7%.

Other Markets

Australia	2.0260-2.0410
Bahrain	0.9030-0.9060
Finland	9.2965-9.3365
Greece	112.00-114.00
Hongkong	12.4270-12.4670
Iran	not available
Kuwait	0.6500-0.6530
Malaysia	5.3340-5.3640
Mexico	55.40-56.90
New Zealand	2.4885-2.5085
Saudi Arabia	7.9860-8.0160
Singapore	4.9970-5.0270
South Africa	1.7890-1.8040

Indices

	Bank of England Index	Morgan Guaranty Changes %
Sterling	79.7	−24.6
US dollar	86.8	−7.3
Canadian dollar	79.7	−18.5
Schilling	146.4	+22.0
Belgian franc	111.0	+10.7
Danish kroner	101.1	−8.3
Deutsche mark	145.6	+39.4
Swiss franc	186.1	+76.0
Guilder	122.4	+17.2
French franc	96.0	−8.2
Lira	49.9	−52.9
Yen	146.1	+43.0

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement December, 1971. (Bank of England Index 100).

Dollar Spot Rates

* Ireland	1.8730-1.8750
† Canada	1.1894-1.1897
Netherlands	2.1725-2.1740
Belgium	32.15-32.17
Denmark	6.1495-6.1515
West Germany	1.9985-1.9995
Portugal	53.63-53.73
Spain	80.60-80.70
Italy	950.00-950.50
Norway	5.2005-5.2025
France	4.6260-4.6275
Sweden	4.4350-4.4370
Japan	201.65-201.85
Austria	14.14-14.16
Switzerland	1.8115-1.8125

* Ireland quoted in US currency.
† Canada $1 : US $0.8406-0.8409

Money Market Rates

Bank of England MLR 14%

(Last changed 24/11/80)

Clearing Banks Base Rate 14%

Discount Mkt Loans %
Overnight: High 13¾ Low 13¼

Week Fixed: 13½

Treasury Bills (Dis%)

Buying		Selling	
2 months	12[illegible]	2 months	12[illegible]
3 months	12[illegible]	3 months	12[illegible]

Prime Bank Bills (Dis%) Trades (Dis%)

2 months	13[illegible]	3 months	14½
3 months	13¾-13½	4 months	14⅛
4 months	13[illegible]	6 months	13⅞
6 months	12⅞-12¾		

Local Authority Bonds

1 month	15½-15¼	7 months	14½-14¼
2 months	15½-15¼	8 months	14½-14¼
3 months	15-14¾	9 months	14¼-14
4 months	14¾-14½	10 months	14¼-14
5 months	14½-14½	11 months	14¼-14
6 months	14½-14¼	12 months	13⅞-13⅝

Secondary Mkt. £CD Rates (%)

1 month	14½-14¼	6 months	13[illegible]
3 months	14½-14¼	12 months	13[illegible]

Local Authority Market (%)

2 days	14	3 months	14[illegible]
7 days	14⅛	6 months	14
1 month	14¼	1 year	13⅝

Interbank Market (%)

Overnight: Open 13⅝-13½ Close 13

1 week	14-13⅞	6 months	[illegible]
1 month	14[illegible]	9 months	[illegible]
3 months	14½-14¼	12 months	13⅝-13½

First Class Finance Houses (Mkt. Rate%)
3 months 14⅛ 6 months 14⅛

Finance House Base Rate 15½%

EMS Currency Rates

	ECU central rates	currency against ECU	% change from central rate†	% change adjusted†*	divergence limit % plus/minus
Belgian franc	39.7897	41.4801	+4.20	+0.70	1.53
Danish krone	7.7236	7.93275	+2.71	−0.79	1.64
German D-mark	2.48208	2.57739	+3.84	+0.34	1.125
French franc	5.84700	5.96553	+2.03	−1.47	1.3557
Dutch guilder	2.74362	2.80313	+2.17	−1.33	1.512
Irish punt	0.668201	0.687991	+2.96	−0.54	1.665
Italian lira	1157.79	1226.52	+5.94	+2.44	4.08

† changes are for the ECU therefore positive change denotes weak currency.
* adjusted for sterling's weight in the ECU, and for the lira's wider divergence limits.
Adjustment calculated by The Times.

Euro-$ Deposits

(%) calls, 19¼-20¼; seven days, 19½-20; one month, 19½-19¾; three months, 18[illegible]-18[illegible]; six months, 17-17¼.

Gold

Gold fixed: am, $566.75 (an ounce); pm, $571.50 close, $573.50.
Krugerrand (per coin): $590-592 (£245.75-246.75).
Sovereigns (new): $143-145 (£59.50-60.50).

Wall Street

New York, Jan 15.—An afternoon rally by energy issues lifted the New York Stock Exchange to a narrow gain

The Dow Jones industrial average, weak all day, gained 3.50 points to 969.97 by the close.

Analysts said energy shares rose on a report that the Price Hiram Walker-Consumers Home placed on the reserves of Davis Oil Co was much higher than the value of comparable deals recently. They said traders speculated that would increase the domestic reserve valuations of most other companies.

A published report today said Walker valued the Davis reserves at $20 a barrel. Analysts said that is well above the roughly $10 a barrel placed by Sun Company on reserves of Seagram Company Texas Pacific Oil Properties and the $12 to $13 a barrel set in other recent deals.

Among the best gainers, Sedco jumped 10¼ to 90, Getty Oil 2¼ to 91, Union Oil of California, which reported a Wyoming discovery, three to 45, Conoco three to 64¾, Phillips Petroleum 3⅞ to 58⅝ and Union Pacific two to 76.

Superior Oil surged 11½ to 212 and Phoenix Canada Oil added 1⅛ to 25⅞ on the Toronto Exchange. They obtained approval of the Peruvian state oil company to explore the northern Peruvian jungle.

Mobil rose 1⅝ to 81⅞, Atlantic Richfield 1⅜ to 64, Standard Oil (Indiana) 1⅛ to 77, California Standard 2½ to 100⅛, Exxon 1⅝ to 79⅞ and Texaco ⅞ to 46⅛.

● Ex div. a Asked. c Ex distribution. h Bid. k Market closed. n New issue. p Stock split. t Traded. y Unquoted.

US commodities

SILVER futures lost as much as the 50 per cent limit on liquidation. Jan, 1,473.00-1,490.00c; Feb, 1,491.00c; March, 1,510.00-1,520.00c; May, 1,557.00-1,565.00c; July, 1,606.00c; Sept, 1,650.00c; Dec, 1,714.50c; Jan, 1,737.50c; March, 1,780.50c; May, 1,824.50c; July, 1,868.50c; Sept, 1,912.50c.

GOLD futures were: CHICAGO IMM.—April, $665.70 asked; June, $683.00-677.50 asked; July, $687.60; Sept, $702.30; Oct, $709.60; Dec, $724.30; Jan, $731.60; March, $746.30. NY COMEX.—Jan, $558.70; Feb, $561.00-563.00; March, $567.00; April, $576.50-579.00; June, $591.00-593.00; Aug, $613.00; Oct, $622.80; Dec, $637.80; Feb, $652.80; April, $667.90; June, $683.10; Aug, $698.30; Oct, $713.50.

COPPER futures closed at or near lows, down 1.05c to 0.70c. Jan, 84.10c; Feb, 84.80c; March, 86.00-86.40c; May, 88.90c; July, 91.00c; Sept, 93.00c; Dec, 95.30c; Jan, 96.45c; March, 98.20c; May, 99.80c; July, 101.40c; Sept, 103.20c.

SUGAR futures plummeted 2.01 to 1.00 cents at the close on huge stop loss selling in a market empty of buying. March, 28.60c-28.70c; May, 28.70c-28.80c; July, 29.57c asked; Sept, 28.53c asked; Oct, 28.38c asked; Jan, 26.00c asked; March, 25.50c; May, 25.50c.

COTTON futures were: March, 92.40-92.50c; May, 93.85-93.95c; July, 94.20-94.25c; Oct, 88.60-88.70c asked; Dec, 85.50-85.60c; March, 86.40 bid-86.70c asked; May, 87.10 bid-87.50c asked.

COFFEE futures closed with a loss of 0.46c in spot March at 132.28c. Others finished down 0.60c to unchanged. March, 132.25-132.30c; May, 134.35-134.70c; July, 135.50c; Sept, 136.50-136.76c; Dec, 135.50c; March, 134.50 bid-135.50 asked.

COCOA futures closed down $3 to up $11. March, $2.00-1,962; May, $2,055-2,030; July, $2,106-2,070; Sept, $2,150-2,122; Dec, $2,205-2,185; March, $2,260-2,240.

CHICAGO GRAINS: Corn futures closed near day's highs, down 3¼ to 1¾ cents a bushel in active trade. Wheat futures ended a new day's highs, down ¾c to 3¾c a bushel. WHEAT.—March 504½-494½c; May, 518-503¾c; July, 606-494c; Sept, 519-506¾c; Dec, 538-527¾c. CORN.—March, 375-367¾c; May, 380-375c; July, 382-377c; Sept, 375-370¾c; Dec, 370¾-366¾c; March, 380¼-377c. OATS.—March, 224¾-221c; May, 228-224¾c; July, 232¼-225c; Sept, 221-219c; Dec, 225¾-222c.

CHICAGO SOYABEANS. Futures finished locked down the 30 cent a bushel limit in the first four contracts, to down 20½ cents in new crops. Unfilled sell orders at the close totalled 7.0m bushels. Meal plunged to $10 a ton limit in most contracts while the two most deferreds posted $9 ... bushels. Oil ended 0.53c to 0.55c lb lower. SOYABEANS. Jan, 785-772½c; March, 805-773½c; May, 823-819½c; July, 847¾-837¼c; Aug, 838¼c; Sept, 842-823c; Nov, 825-823½c; Jan, 863¼-847½c. SOYABEAN OIL. Jan, 23.95c; March, 24.35-24.60c; May, 25.40c; July, 26.25c; Aug, 26.50 bid-26.65c asked; Sept, 26.65c; Oct, 69.04c; Dec, 27.30 bid-27.40c asked; Jan, 27.40-27.50c; March, 27.70 bid-27.80c asked. SOYABEAN MEAL. Jan, $22.10-22.08; March, $22.88 asked; May, $23.68; July, $24.25-24.25 asked; Aug, $24.35-24.35 asked; Sept, $24.40-24.40 asked; Oct, $24.60 asked; Dec, $24.20; Jan, 24.40 bid-24.60 asked.

Foreign exchange.—Sterling, spot $2.5922 ($2.4005); three months, $2.4181 ($2.4240); Canadian dollar $1.1914 ($1.1918).

The Dow Jones spot commodity index was 437.93 (443.46). The futures index was 464.20 (467.68).

The Dow Jones averages.—Industrials, 969.97 (966.47); transportation, 396.10 (389.53); utilities, 112.70 (112.38); 65 stocks, 373.20 (370.45). New York Stock Exchange Index, 76.79 (76.55); industrials, 90.52 (90.49); transportation, 75.00 (74.16); utilities, 38.47 (38.48); financial, 70.50 (70.47).

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Motoring

Saab remains competitive with the 900

To survive in a world of motoring giants, Saab, the smallest volume manufacturer in Europe, has somehow to keep its range fresh and competitive while avoiding the big outlay entailed in developing a new model from scratch.

I remember at the Geneva Motor Show four years ago talking to some well-informed Swedish journalists who were convinced that Saab would, before long, abandon car manufacture and concentrate on its other activities, which include the Scania trucks, aircraft and computers.

At that time, certainly, the outlook for Saab looked bleak. The car division was losing money and was dependent on only one model, the aging and expensive 99. Later, the planned merger with Volvo, which might have been a sensible piece of rationalization, fell through.

Without the funds to replace the 99, Saab shrewdly decided to develop it and the result was the 900, which used the same basic mechanical layout and body style but which was significantly bigger: a weakness of the 99, in marketing terms, was that it did not seem to offer enough metal for what was often a lot of money.

The 900 was a new model born of an old one at minimum cost. There were enough changes for it not to be simply dismissed as a "stretched" 99. The extra length was used to provide a longer wheelbase, helping ride and stability, and providing more room for passengers. The opportunity was also taken to fit a new, and effective, heating and ventilation system.

The Saab 900, first sold in Britain nearly two years ago, was, however, a three or five-door hatchback—in a part of the market dominated, despite the Rover and Renault 30, by conventional saloons with a separate boot. The market for large three-box cars in Europe was estimated at around 2.6 million units a year and Saab was not in it.

Hence the 900 saloon, which made its debut at the Geneva Motor Show last year and came to Britain in the autumn. Essentially it is the same vehicle as the hatchback, except that it has a boot instead of a tailgate. But the new back end has been pleasantly styled and further effaces the resemblance to the 99.

The boot itself is long, rather than high or wide, but has a claimed capacity of more than 14 cubic feet and should swallow normal luggage with ease. There is a small space underneath the floor, next to the spare wheel, where small items can be stowed. Unusually, Saab has retained the folding rear seat of the hatchback, which means that the car can take very long loads.

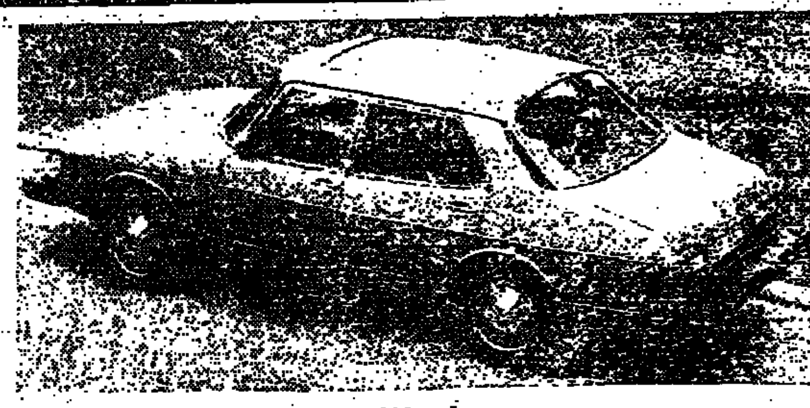
Rear seat passengers get a little more headroom and the car should seat five adults with something to spare. The back seats have new springs for increased comfort and also to take out weight. There is a smarter trim throughout, a smaller steering wheel, adjustment for the door mirrors from inside the car and, for the first time on a Saab, electrically operated front windows are fitted on the more expensive versions. Power steering is standard.

I have been driving the 900 saloon in its most expensive form, £11,444, with a turbocharged engine and automatic transmission. The venerable 1985 cc engine has been modified to make it lighter, more efficient and slightly more powerful. Again, for a small company like Saab, developing a new power unit would have been crushingly expensive.

Turbocharged, the fuel-injected engine develops 145 bhp and provides acceleration at least as good as most six cylinders, although it must be emphasized that the turbo is a reserve power which in normal driving is comparatively little used. Saab reckons that most motorists will call on the turbo no more than 10 to 15 per cent of the time, an estimate which I would put on the high side.

The point is that the turbo starts to operate at around 3,000 rpm, an engine speed which corresponds to a road speed of 60 mph in top gear. So you have to be driving the car fairly aggressively to bring the turbo in and there were long periods when I almost forgot I had it.

But it does provide startling acceleration—a little too startling if not employed with care—and



Shrewd adaptation—the Saab 900 saloon

is ideal for overtaking and for pulling briskly away from traffic. Because the turbo lies dormant so much of the time, it wastes little fuel and my consumption, even with automatic transmission, came out at a respectable 22 to 27 mpg.

I suspect, though, that many people buy Saabs for reasons less spectacular than a "blown" engine. One, undeniably, is durability and finish, exemplified by the satisfying clunk as the door closes and by the marque's better than average record on rust. A Saab, like its compatriot the Volvo, is built to survive the heavy Scandinavian winters.

Mainly because of its steering, the 99 acquired the reputation of a heavy car to drive. But the 900's power assisted system is excellent and so, for that matter, is the automatic transmission. There is still some bodyroll on corners, and tyre squeal, but the car holds the road reassuringly and has efficient all-disc brakes.

Refinement is impressive. Road, wind and engine noise is well suppressed and there is little need to turn up the stereo radio/cassette (standard on the turbo) at 70 mph or, I dare say, beyond. The ride is on the firm side but the seats offer well upholstered support and, as usual on a Saab, the front seats heat automatically in cold weather.

In all, this is a car which, without offering any outstanding features, can take its place with the Audis and the Volvos and the Rovers, and it should help to sustain Saab in what promises to be a very tough marketplace, particularly at the so-called "executive" end, during 1981.

Miles apart

BL has attracted much praise for the Mini Metro as a vehicle but little criticism for advertising it as the 83 mpg car. Renault seems to have been more sensitive on the issue than most and has started an advertising campaign in obvious competition to the Metro's, pointing out that in town, at least, the most economical model is its own 5TL.

The 83 mpg claim had to be based on fact or it would have infringed not only the code on advertising standards but, probably, the law as well. It was derived from the results of tests conducted by the Automobile Association, driving a particular Metro model, the HLE, at a constant 30 mph.

Obviously, that is something no ordinary motorist ever does, unless he or she is trying to obtain freak fuel consumption figures. To that extent it is misleading, not to say irrelevant. On the other hand, I wonder how many motorists took the 83 mpg figure literally? Or even seriously?

Rival manufacturers were another matter and, after first spluttering with anger, Renault gratefully seized on the latest batch of official consumption figures, issued by the Department of Transport, for independent confirmation that the 5TL was more economical, in town, than the Metro HLE. Hence the advertisements.

The ordinary motorist may find all this a little childish, a private quarrel from which he can stay aloof. But with the need to save fuel becoming such a central issue in motoring, it is inevitable that manufacturers should try to outdo each other on fuel economy claims.

Leaving aside the fictional world of 83 mpg, the Metro HLE is the most economical car available in Britain—or, indeed, Europe—by two of the three official yardsticks, at a steady 56 mph and at a steady 75 mph. The figures, respectively, are 58.3 mpg and 41.7 mpg (the Renault 5TL, at 57.6 and 41.7 is only fractionally behind).

But are those returns any more realistic? I suspect that as few motorists drive at a steady 56 mph as at a constant 30 mph and any figures obtained from such an exercise must be treated with a similar scepticism. The 75 mph measure is more to the point, being near to what a car will do at the permitted motorway speed.

The most useful return, erring if anything on the harsh side, is that for the town cycle. It is based on a carefully worked out driving formula which tries to simulate urban traffic conditions, with plenty of stops and starts and use of the low gears. It is here that the Renault 5TL beats the Metro HLE, by 44.8 to 41.5.

The HLE is also bettered on the town cycle by another Renault, the GTL (also 44.8) and the Suzuki SC100 (41.9) and equalled by the Citroen 2CV and Dyane. And it should be emphasized that the HLE is, in turn, significantly more economical than other Metro versions. The urban cycle figure for the 1.3 litre, for instance, is a modest 32.8.

On balance, it is probably healthy for car manufacturers to fight each other over fuel consumption claims because it keeps a very important subject in the public eye. And the Government figures, sensibly interpreted, do provide a means of comparing one car with another even if they do not, and cannot, predict what you as a driver will actually get.

Peter Waymark

(continued on page 24)

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Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

PERSONAL CHOICE



Joyce Kennedy in Rita May's comedy about darts "widows" in revolt, One Hundred and Eighty!!! (BBC 2, 9.00)

● Two long-running serials end tonight, one of them an unqualified success, the other a curate's egg. To serve them All My Days (BBC 1, 8.00), Andrew Davies's adaptation of R. F. Delderfield's saga of public school life, had its heart in the right place while succeeding in meeting all academic requirements too. It also had three exemplary performances from John Duttine, as the soulful Welsh hero, Alan MacNaughtan as the master with a cigarette growing out of his lips, and Frank Middlemass, goodness personified, as the former head. As for Alan Plater's dramatization of The Good Companions (ITV, 9.00) it was period-perfect, robustly acted, but fatally flawed by songs that were as weak as they were redundant. The last thing Priestley's good wine needed was this sort of bush.

● Tonight's edition of the outdoor magazine In the Country (BBC 2, 7.55) is about map makers, mighty and humble. The mighty ones are those who every year, turn out millions of those enormous Ordnance Survey maps on which everything is indicated except lamp posts. Most of the information, we learn, is picked up by survey aircraft, a mile and half high. The humble ones are represented by the earthbound Hugh Westacott, author of The Walker's Handbook, who tramps the countryside, notebook and pencil at the ready, recording those remaining bits of the land fit for perambulatory heroes.

● Rita May's play about a Northern darts league, One Hundred and Eighty !!! (BBC 2, 9.00) has been most shrewdly scheduled, for it immediately precedes the coverage of today's play in the Embassy World Professional Darts Championship. Fortuitous programme planning or not, the play, though a comedy, makes some incontrovertible points about amateur darts fanaticism which, if unchecked, can lead to professional passion on an international scale (BBC 2, 10.00 and 11.30). The darts players' wives rebel against having to play second fiddle to a darts board and stage a sit-in at the local pub where the league final is about to be played.

● Having omitted, last Wednesday, to remind you that My Music, one of the most consistently enjoyable half-hours on radio is back again, let me now advise you that there is a second broadcast on Radio 4 at 12.27. Team and chairman are unchanged. . . . With our bathroom scales testifying to over-indulgence at Christmas, the Radio 4 series about the facts and fallacies of dieting (4.05) could not have been better timed. . . . Tonight's two-part recital by the Beaux Arts Trio (Radio 3, 7.30 and 8.35) is broadcast live from Birmingham. We shall hear the Brahms trio in C, Op 87, the Haydn No 7 in A, and the Ravel in A minor.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: †STEREO; *BLACK AND WHITE; (r) REPEAT.

TELEVISION

BBC 1

12.45 pm News and weather forecast.

1.00 Pebble Mill at One: Today's edition includes Peter Seabrook's regular feature about gardening, Dig This. 1.45 How Do You Do! Counting games for children, and the story The Special Pebble (r). 3.20 Croesi'r Ffin (Crossing Borders): For Welsh viewers. 3.53 Play School: Mike Rosen's and Ann Reay's story A Surprise for the King. Also on BBC 2 at 11.00. 4.20 Laurel and Hardy: The Bullnick: Cartoon which does not do the comedy pair justice.

4.25 Jackanory: Bernard Holley completes his readings from Joan Eadington's Jonny Briggs and the Great Razzle-Dazzle. 4.40 Think Again: Johnny Ball with some little known facts and figures about books and comics. 5.05 Grange Hill: Serial about a comprehensive school. Part 6. Thanks to some vandals, a question mark hangs over the school dance. 5.35 Ivor the Engine: The story of an outing (r).

5.40 News with Kenneth Kendall.

5.55 Nationwide: Includes the gardening item, Down to Earth, presented by Alan Titchmarsh. And Desmond Lynam's Sportswide (at 6.45).

7.00 The Superstars: The second heat of this year's series. From Peterborough. With Mike Channon, Gary Owen and Frank Gray (footballers), Andy Ripley and Roger Uttley (rugby), Desmond Douglas (table tennis), Dave "Boy" Green (boxing) and Konrad Bartelski (skiing). At stake: the Ferguson Trophy.

8.00 To Serve Them All My Days: The final episode of R. F. Delderfield's school serial, adapted by Andrew Davies. David is too busy to notice how lonely and unhappy Christine is. (See Personal Choice). 8.50 Points of View: Barry Took has fun with viewers' letters. 9.00 News with Jan Leeming.

9.25 Miss Great Britain 1981: Not from Morecambe, as has been the custom, but from London. The MCs are Edward Woodward and Ray Moore.

10.15 Peter Skellern: The second part of the singer's autobiography, with musical interludes. Tonight's instalment comes from Bury, Lancs, where Mr Skellern was choirboy, then organist and choirmaster at St Paul's.

10.50 Royal Heritage: Part 2 of this much-praised series about Britain's royal builders and collectors. With Huw Wheldon. Tonight, it's the Tudor period. Includes visits to Hampton Court, and St James's Palace (r).

11.50 Film: Vice Squad* (1953) Thriller with Edward G. Robinson as the detective chief on the track of the men who murdered a policeman. Also starring Paulette Goddard and K. T. Stevens. Director: Arnold Laven. Film ends at approximately 1.20 am.

BBC 1 VARIATIONS: BBC CYMRU/WALES: [illegible]

BBC 2

11.00 am Play School: The same as on BBC 1, 3.55. Closedown at 11.25.

5.40 pm Cartoon: Sea Dream.

5.45 Monkey: Japanese television serial about fantastic adventures in old China. Tonight's characters include a horse that used to be a dragon. With English dialogue.

6.30 Speak for Yourself: Another in this series for people whose first language is not English. Tonight: the best way to go about asking a doctor to visit someone who is ill at home. It includes a mini-play, to drive the point home.

6.55 When the Bough Breaks: Final programme in this series about parents who cannot cope with children. Tonight: what can be done to reduce the number of children killed by their parents or guardians every year? The figure is put at 100, with 5,000 injured. With John Thaw. 7.10 News: With sub-titles for the hard of hearing.

7.20 Oxford Road Show: First in a new series. The declared aim of this magazine is to take a lateral look at topical and timely subjects. Presented in front of a studio audience. With Rik Mayall and Rob Rohrer. From Manchester.

7.55 In the Country: Angela Rippon visits the Southampton headquarters of Ordnance Survey to find out how the famous maps are made. We also meet Hugh Westacott, an independent mapmaker who produces a hundred footpath guides every year. He is tracked down in the Brecon Beacons by Bernard Price (see Personal Choice).

8.25 Reagan's Republicans: Newsweek takes a look at the men in the new Reagan administration. The programme examines their background and experience, and assesses the prospects for a smooth transition from a Carter to a Reagan administration.

9.00 Playhouse: One Hundred and Eighty!!! Comedy, by Rita May, set in the North. It's about a group of women who stage a sit-in at a pub because they are sick of taking second place to darts matches. The cast consists largely of actors from the northern club circuits (see Personal Choice).

10.00 International Darts: Highlights from today's semi-final games in the Embassy World Professional Championship. The final takes place tomorrow. From Jollees Club, Stoke-on-Trent. More at 11.30.

10.45 Newsnight: All the day's news, with the most important stories analysed in detail.

11.30 International Darts: More highlights from today's games in the Embassy World Professional Championship. Introduced by Peter Purves.

THAMES

9.30 am The Masterbuilders: The story of the men who planned the world's first international fair. 9.55 Wild Canada: It is one of the richest areas in Canada—yet it looks like a wasteland of ice and snow. It is the Canadian Arctic.

10.45 Young Ramsay: Drama about the poisoning of foals. A pet goat comes to the rescue. 11.35 Superstar Profile: Interview with Hollywood actor William Holden. The interviewer is Catherine Laporte Coolen. 12.00 The Magic Ball: Story, with illustrations, about Sam and his ball. It is called The Story of the Chimney Sweep (r). 12.10 pm Once Upon a Time: Mark Wynter tells the story of Rumpelstiltskin. 12.30 A Better Read: Bill Grundy presents another of his books programmes. Today, a look at romantic novels. With Jilly Cooper and Kay Thorne giving their choices. Interviews with Rachel Anderson and Dr Peter Mann. 1.00 News. 1.20 Thames news. 1.30 Together: Serial about life in a block of flats. Martin Finch (Kathleen Byron) digs more deeply into Edward Fuller's worried state. Raymond Francis plays Fuller.

2.00 After Noon Plus: With Mavis Nicholson. Interview with the actor Derek Jacobi, with clips from television plays such as I, Claudius, Man of Straw, Hamlet, and Philby, Burgess and Maclean.

2.45 Film: Letters from Three Lovers (1973) Made-for-television drama starring June Allyson, Ken Berry, Martin Sheen and Juliet Mills. How some lives are affected by the late arrival of three letters.

4.15 Watch It! Another story about an inventor called Dr Snuggles. 4.20 The Adventures of Black Beauty: Episode 2 of David Butler's serial. A member of the family. Today: enter a thief. 4.45 Animals in Action: Keith Shackleton, the wildlife artist, is presenter of, and draws the pictures for, this programme about the way in which animals protect their young.

5.15 Clapperboard: Film excerpts for the younger viewer. Includes a feature on the adventure film Hawk the Slayer, with interviews with Jack Palance and Johny Terry.

5.45 News. 6.00 Thames news. 6.30 Thames Sport: The prospects for the weekend.

London Weekend

7.00 Family Fortunes: Quiz, compered by Bob Monkhouse. Two family teams compete. Their answers have to match up with replies from members of the public. 7.30 Vegas: The private detective (Robert Urich) tries to get Bea (Phyllis Davies) to postpone her wedding.

8.30 The Gaffer: Comedy series, with Bill Maynard as the boss of a troubled light engineering factory. Tonight: he finds himself on strike outside his own works. Also starring Russell Hunter, Pat Ashton, Leslie Sarony.

9.00 The Good Companions: Final episode of this adaptation, with music, of the J. B. Priestley novel about an itinerant concert party. Tonight, they reach the end of the road. With Judy Cornwell as Elizabeth Trant. (See Personal Choice).

10.00 News. 10.30 Benson: Comedy series about a black butler (Robert Guillaume). Tonight, the case of the vanished Russian chess master.

11.00 The London Programme: The trend towards private medicine in London. The programme asks: will the present boom undermine the National Health Service? The reporter is Mike Chaplin.

11.35 Mannix: A private detective (Mike Connors) becomes the target for a vicious gang of smugglers. 12.30 am Close: Richard Easton reads Thurber's The Courtship of Arthur and Al.

RADIO

Radio 4

6.00 am News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Today.
6.30 Today.
7.00, 8.00 News.
7.30, 8.30 Headlines.
8.35 Yesterday in Parliament.
9.00 News.
9.05 Desert Island Discs.†
9.45 Feedback.
10.00 News.
10.02 International Assignment.
10.30 Daily Service.
10.45 Story: The Last of the Line, by Yvonne Gilan.
11.00 News.
11.05 Are You There, Harry Price?
11.50 Natural Selection.
12.00 News.
12.02 pm You and Yours.
12.27 My Music.† (See Personal Choice).
12.55 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.
1.40 The Archers.
2.00 News.
2.02 Woman's Hour.
3.00 News.
3.02 Play: Piracy, by William Fox.
4.05 Weigh-In. (See Personal Choice)
4.15 Poetry Up To Now.
4.45 There Came Both Mist and Snow (10).
5.00 PM.
5.55 Weather.
6.00 News.
6.30 Going Places.
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Pick of the Week.†
8.10 Profile.
8.30 Any Questions?
9.15 Letter from America.
9.30 Kaleidoscope.
10.00 The World Tonight.
10.35 Week Ending.†
11.00 Lord Jim (10).
11.15 Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Today in Parliament.
11.45 BBC Sound Archives.
12.00 News
12.15 am-12.23 Shipping forecast.

VHF
10.30 am-10.45 Listen With Mother.
11.00 pm-12.00 Study on 4: Kontakte (12). Allez France ! (11).

Radio 3

6.55 am Weather.
7.00 News.
7.05 Records: Borodin, Mozart, Bach, Nielsen, Sibelius.†
8.00 News.
8.05 Records: Gounod, Mendelssohn, Chopin.†
9.00 News.
9.05 Week's Composers: The Smetana Line.†
10.05 Chamber music: Fauré, Couperin, Rameau, Kodaly.†
11.05 Brass band: Musgrave, T. Wilson, Bourgeois.†
12.00 BBC Northern SO/Herbig, pt 1: Mozart (Sym 40), Szymanowski (Vln Conc 2).†
1.00 pm News.
1.05 BBCNSO, pt 2: Tchaikovsky (Sym 4).†
1.55 What the Critics Said (2).
2.45 Late Brahms.†
3.50 Talk (Tureck): Performing Style in Bach.†
4.20 BBC Singers/Poole: Warlock, G. Bush, Rutter, Moeran, Grainger, Arnold.†
4.55 News.
5.00 Mainly for Pleasure.†
6.55 Play it Again: preview.†
7.00 Records: Sibelius (Sym 6).†
7.30 Trio (Beaux Arts—live from Birmingham), pt 1: Haydn (no 7), Ravel.†
8.15 Talk: Philosophy and Philosophies (2).
8.35 Trio: pt 2: Brahms (op 87).†
9.15 One Pair of Ears: review.
9.30 Music in Our Time: Capricorn/Hellewell: Soproni, Kocsar, Lang.†
10.25 The Living Poet: C. H. Sisson.
11.00 News.
11.05-11.15 Record: Gluck.†

VHF
11.15 pm-11.35 Open University: The First Years of Life—Mummies and Daddies, Husbands and Wives.

Radio 2

5.00 am News, weather. 5.03 Bob Kilbey.† 7.32 Terry Wogan.† 10.03 Jimmy Young.† 12.03 pm Ray Moore.† 2.03 Ed Stewart.† 4.03 Much More Music.† 6.03 John Dunn.† 8.02 Sequence Time.† 8.45 Friday Night is Music Night.† 9.55 Sports Desk. 10.02 Listen to Les. 10.30 The Organist Entertains. 11.04 Brian Matthew. 2.02 am-5.00 You and the Night and the Music.†

Radio 1

5.00 am As Radio 2. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Steve Wright. 11.00 Andy Peebles. 12.30 pm Newsbeat. 12.45 Paul Burnett. 2.32 Dave Lee Travis. 4.32 Peter Powell. 5.30 Newsbeat. 5.45 Roundtable. 7.31 Anne Nightingale. 10.02 Friday Rock Show.† 12.00 Close.

VHF RADIOS 1 AND 2: 5.00 am With Radio 2. 10.00 pm With Radio 1. 12.00-5.00 am With Radio 2.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in western Europe on medium wave (648 kHz, 463m) at the following times (GMT):—

6.00 am Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-four Hours. 7.45 Merchant Navy Programme. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 Intermezzo. 8.30 The Book Programme. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 Music Now. 10.15 Merchant Navy Programme. 10.30 What Ho, Jeeves. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News about Britain. 11.15 In the Meantime. 11.25 Ulster Newsletter. 11.30 Assignment. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 pm Jazz for the Asking. 12.45 Sports Round-up. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty-four Hours. 1.30 Sadler's Wells. 2.15 Letterbox. 2.30 John Peel. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Outlook. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Theatre Call. 4.35 Letter from London. 4.45 The World Today. 5.00 World News. 5.09 The Week in Wales. 5.15 Music Now. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Twenty-four Hours. 9.15 Time Off. 9.45 Letter from London. 9.55 Frequency Information. 10.00 World News. 10.09 The World Today. 10.25 The Week in Wales. 10.30 Financial News. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Round-up. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 From the Weeklies. 11.30 What Ho, Jeeves. 12.00 World News. 12.09 am News about Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 About Britain. 12.45 Sarah and Company. 1.15 Outlook. 1.45 Dancers of the Renaissance. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Network UK. 2.30 The Book Programme. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News about Britain. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 Just a Minute. 4.00 Newsdesk. 5.45 The World Today

WAVELENGTHS: Radio 1 medium wave 275m/1089kHz or 285m/1053kHz. Radio 2 med wave 330m/909kHz or 433m/693kHz and 88-91 VHF. Radio 3 med wave 247m/1215kHz and 90-92.5 VHF. Radio 4 long wave 1500m/200kHz and 92-95 VHF. Greater London area only: med wave 720kHz/417m. LBC 261m, 97.3 VHF, Capital 194m, 95.8 VHF. World Service: med wave 648kHz (463m). BBC Radio London 206m, 94.9 VHF.

REGIONAL TV

Westward

As London except: 9.30 am Amazing Years of Cinema. 9.55 Dinah Saur. 10.10 Cities. 11.00-12.00 Sesame Street. 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45 Film: My Girl Tisa* (Lilli Palmer). 4.12-4.15 Gus Honeybun's Birthdays. 6.00-7.00 Westward Diary. 7.30-8.30 Incredible Hulk. 10.32 News. 10.38 Soap. 11.05 SWAT. 12.00-12.05 am Faith for Life.

Ulster

As London except: Starts 10.00 am Spiderman. 11.00 Story Hour. 11.50-12.00 Sally and Jake. 1.20 pm-1.30 Lunchtime. 2.45 Film: Two Flags West (Joseph Cotten). 4.13-4.15 News. 6.00-7.00 Good Evening Ulster. 7.30-8.30 Charlie's Angels. 10.30 Witness. 10.35 Sportscast. 11.05 Beyond Westworld. 12.05 am-12.15 Bedtime.

Anglia

As London except: 9.30 am Pavilion Folk. 9.55 Spy Extraordinary. 10.20 Laurel and Hardy*. 10.45 Patterns. 11.10 Something Special. 11.55-12.00 Cartoon. 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.00 Houseparty. 2.25-4.15 Film: Flaming Frontier (Stewart Granger). 6.00-7.00 About Anglia. 7.30-8.30 Incredible Hulk. 10.30 7 Days Unemployment Special. 11.00 Soap. 11.30 Film: Escapade: I thought it was Someone I Knew (Granville Van Dusen). 12.30 am At the End of the Day.

HTV

As London except: Starts 9.45 am Sesame Street. 10.45 Survival Special. 11.35-12.00 Beachcombers. 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.00 Houseparty. 2.25-4.15 Film: Woman for Charlie (Dan Blocker). 6.00 Report West. 6.30-7.00 WKRP in Cincinnati. 7.30-8.30 Chips. 10.28 News. 10.35 Report Extra. 11.05 Benson. 11.35-12.30 am Charlie's Angels

HTV CYMRU/WALES: As HTV except: 12.00-12.10 pm Ffalabalam. 4.15-4.45 O'r tir i's Môr. 5.15-5.45 Muppet Show. 6.00-6.15 Y Dydd. 6.15-6.30 Report Wales. 10.35-11.05 Outlook.

ATV

As London except: Starts 9.40 am Hot Stuff. 9.50 Call It Macaroni. 10.20 Arts for Whom? 11.00-12.00 Chopper Squad. 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-4.15 Film: Call Her Mum (Connie Stevens). 6.00-7.00 ATV Today. 7.30-8.30 Charlie's Angels. 10.30 Soap. 11.00 News. 11.05-1.00 am Film: Hired Hand (Peter Fonda).

Channel

As London except: Starts 12.30 pm-1.00 Better Read. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.45-4.15 Film: My Girl Tisa* (Lilli Palmer). 6.00 Channel Report. 6.30 Encore 6.55-7.00 What's on Where. 7.30-8.30 Incredible Hulk. 10.28 News. 10.36 Soap. 11.05-12.00 SWAT.

Border

As London except: Starts 9.35 am Tarzan. 10.30-12.00 Film: Charlotte's Web. 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-4.15 Film: Lost in the Desert (Dirkie Hayes). 6.00 Lookaround. 6.30-7.00 Survival. 7.30-8.30 Charlie's Angels. 10.30 Your MP. 11.00 Quincy. 11.55-11.58 News.

Grampian

As London except: Starts 9.40 am First Thing. 9.45 Stars on Ice. 10.10 Chopper Squad. 11.05 Story of Wine. 11.30-12.00 George Hamilton IV. 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-4.15 Film: Wild Heart (Jennifer Jones). 6.00-7.00 North Tonight. 7.30-8.30 Charlie's Angels. 10.30 Reflections. 10.35 Police Story. 12.10 am Seachd Laithean. 12.30-12.35 News.

Yorkshire

As London except: 9.30 am Indians of North America. 9.45 Laurel and Hardy*. 10.05 Wilderness Alive. 11.00 Young Ramsay. 11.55-12.00 Bubbles. 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-4.15 Film: Jacqueline* (John Gregson). 6.00 Calendar. 6.30-7.00 Sport. 7.30-8.30 Hawaii Five-O. 10.30 Soap. 11.00 Snooker. 11.45-12.40 am Lou Grant.

Granada

As London except: 9.30 am Stationary Ark. 9.55 Lone Ranger. 10.15 Leave Care Horn to Port. 10.55 Cartoon. 11.00-12.00 Sesame Street. 1.20 pm-1.30 Granada Reports. 2.00 Live from Two. 2.50-4.15 Film: Louis Armstrong-Chicago Style (Ben Vereen). 6.00 Granada Reports. 6.30-7.00 Kick Off. 10.30 Week on Friday. 11.00 After All That, This. 11.10-1.35 am Film: Devil at Four O'Clock (Frank Sinatra).

Southern

As London except: 9.30 am Kum Kum. 9.55 Island of Treasure. 10.45 Tarzan. 11.45-12.00 Larry the Lamb. 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.00 Houseparty. 2.25-4.15 Film: Constant Husband (Rex Harrison). 5.15-5.45 Gambit. 6.00 Day by Day. 6.30-7.00 Out of Town. 7.30-8.30 Charlie's Angels. 10.35 Rutles—the Movie. 11.05 Benson. 11.35 Film: 10-Year-Old's Plan. 1.35 am Weather followed by Something Special.

Scottish

As London except: 9.30 am At Your Fingertips. 9.40 Friends of Man. 10.05 Wilderness Alive. 11.00 Individually Yours. 11.25 A Reason for Living. 11.50-12.00 Bubbles. 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-4.15 Film: Two Flags West* (Joseph Cotten). 6.00 Scotland Today. 6.25 Sports Extra. 6.45-7.00 Hear Here. 7.30-8.30 Thingummyjig. 10.30 Ways and Means. 11.00 Late Call. 11.05 Carrot Del Sol. 12.05 am-12.35 Curling.

Tyne Tees

As London except: Starts 9.20 am Good Word. 9.25 News. 9.30 Survival. 9.55 Showjumping with Harvey Smith. 10.20 Musical Special. 11.20 Home Nursing. 11.50-12.00 Sally and Jake. 1.20 pm-1.30 News. Lookaround. 2.45-4.15 Film: Woman in Question* (Jean Kent, Dirk Bogarde). 6.00 News. 6.02 Sportstime. 6.30 Northern Life 7.30-8.30 Chips. 10.30 News. 10.32 Film: Touch of Class (Glenda Jackson, George Segal). 12.25 am-12.30 Countryside Christian.

Entertainments Guide

§ Unsold seats at cut price to students just before performance.
CC Most credit cards accepted for telephone bookings or at the box office.
When telephoning, use prefix 01 only outside London Metropolitan Area.

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM S 836 3161 cc 240 5258
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Tonight 7.30: Tosca. Tomor & Tues. 7.30: Romeo & Juliet. Wed. 7.30: The Merry Widow. 104 balcony seats avail. from 10 a.m. on day of perf.

COVENT GARDEN. 240 1066. "S" (Gardencharge 836 6903). 65 Amphiseats avail. for all perfs. from 10.00 a.m. on the day of perf.
THE ROYAL OPERA
Ton't, at 7.30 L'elisir d'amore. Mon. & Thurs. at 7.30 Un ballo in maschera (Matteo Manuguerra replaces Renato Bruson, Mon. perf. Paul Hudson replaces Forbes Robinson all perfs).
Wed. at 7.30 Cosi fan tutte.
THE ROYAL BALLET
Tomor. & Tues. at 7.30 Cinderella.

SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE EC1. Tel. 01-837 1672/3856/7505. Credit Cards 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. 01-278 0871.
Until Feb. 21
D'OYLY CARTE presents
GILBERT & SULLIVAN OPERAS
Evs. 7.30, Mats. Sats. and Feb. 11 & 18 at 2.30. Tonight until Wed: The Mikado. Jan. 22 to 28 Iolanthe. Tkts. £2.00 to £7.50.

THEATRES

ADELPHI S CC 01-836 7611
Evgs. at 7.30. Sats. 4.0 & 7.45
Mats. Thursdays at 3.0
TONY BRITTON
CAROLINE VILLIERS
PETER BAYLISS
and ANNA NEAGLE in
MY FAIR LADY
"A MARVELLOUS SHOW"—Now.
"SPECTACULAR"—D. Express.
"STUNNING"—Time Out.
For Group Bookings Telephone 01-836 7358 or 01-379 6061

ALBERY—OMEGA SHOW GUIDE
ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST, EDUCATING RITA, TOMFOOLERY
DUET FOR ONE, PAL JOEY
CREDIT CARD SALES 379 6565 from 9 a.m. all major cards. No bkg. fees. GROUP bkgs. 836 3962. STUDENT STANDBY ALL SHOWS.

ALBERY, S 836 3878. G Bkgs. 836 3962 or 379 6061. Eves 8. Thur. 3.30 stalls £2.90-£7.90. Sat. 5 & 8.15.
"SIAN PHILLIPS IS A KNOCKOUT" (S Times). "DENIS LAWSON TRIUMPHANT" (D Tel).
PAL JOEY
"IS SOMETHING TO BE SEEN AT ALL COSTS" (F.T.). RODGERS & HART'S GREATEST HIT (D. Mail). GLITTERINGLY SLEAZY, SHEER THEATRICAL RAZZLE DAZZLE Std.

ALDWYCH S 836 6404 cc 379 6233 (10-6, Sats. 10-4). Info 836 5332.
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
Premiere production
PASSION PLAY by Peter Nichols Ton't, Tomor 2.00 & 7.30. Personal and telephone booking now open for Nikolai Erdman's THE SUICIDE (perfs. from 21 Jan.) and O'Casey's JUNO AND THE PAYCOCK (perfs. from 27 Jan.). For RSC Prestel booking key 22023. Group Sales Box Office 379 6061. RSC also at The Warehouse/Piccadilly.

AMBASSADORS S. cc 836 1171
Eves. 8, Tue. Mat. 3, Sat. 5.30 & 8.30.
"One of the cleverest plays ever written" Daily Telegraph.
J. B. PRIESTLEY'S
Mystery Play
DANGEROUS CORNER
"A devilishly clever plot" New Standard. "A splendid & handsome revival" Sunday Express
FIRST WEST END PRODUCTION SINCE 1938.
"Priestley's most popular play" Observer & Times.

APOLLO, S cc 01-437 2663. Grp. Sales 379 6061. Eves 8. Wed & Sat. 5 & 8.
RODNEY BEWES FRANCIS MATTHEWS
in "An unusually truthful and intelligent comedy" The Observer.
MIDDLE AGE SPREAD
COMEDY OF THE YEAR WEST END THEATRE AWARDS 1979
LAST 4 WEEKS—ENDS 7 FEB.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE S 01-836 6056. Credit Card Hotlines 01-836 7040. 01-240 5679.
JOAN COLLINS in
THE LAST OF MRS CHEYNEY
Evgs Mon-Fri at 8.0. Weds 3.0. Sat 5.0 & 8.30. Anti-inflation policy seats at £1.50, £2.50 & £4.00 in Stalls & Royal Circle. Students, Nurses & OAP's £1.50. Group Sales 01-379 6061 and 01-836 6056.
LAST 2 WEEKS—SEASON ENDS JAN 24

CHICHESTER Festival Theatre 0243 781312. Until Saturday. CIRCUS OZ "The perfect Christmas entertainment" S. Tel. "Not to be missed . . . Ideal for children of all ages" Financial Times.

CHURCHILL cc 460 6677/5838. Bromley, Kent. Dec. 18-24 Jan. NORMAN VAUGHAN, IAN LAVENDER, BILL PERTWEE in MOTHER GOOSE with TOMMY BOYD & JULIE DAWN COLE.

COMEDY THEATRE S cc 01-930 2578. Limited season. Mon.-Sat. 8.15. Mats. Thur. 3.00. Sat. 4.00.
RALPH RICHARDSON
in the National Theatre prod. of
EARLY DAYS
by David Storey
RALPH RICHARDSON: "TRIUMPH" Gdn.
"UNFORGETTABLE" Int Hld Trib
"NOT TO BE MISSED" Punch
Group sales 379 6061

COTTESLOE (NT's small auditorium). Mon-Sat. 7.15 THE NATIVITY. All tkts. standing £3.50. Students standby £1.40.

CRITERION S 930 3216 cc 379 6565. Grp Bkgs 379 6061 or 836 3962. Evgs 8. Fri/Sat 6 & 8.45.
Robin Ray, Jonathan Adams, Martin Connor, Tricia George in
A SATIRICAL REVUE
TOMFOOLERY
Words, music & lyrics of Tom Lehrer
"HILARIOUS, BARBED AND BUBBLY" Sunday Times
"OUTRAGEOUS" Guardian

DUKE OF YORK'S cc S 01-836 5122. Credit Cards only. 836 9837. 379 6565. 839 4682. Evgs. 8.0. Saturdays 3.0 & 8.30.
FRANCES DE LA TOUR
ACTRESS OF THE YEAR IN A NEW PLAY. WEST END THEATRE AWARDS
and DAVID DE KEYSER in
DUET FOR ONE
by TOM KEMPINSKI. "An amazing new play" D. Tel. "ONE OF THE MOST DEEPLY SATISFYING STRAIGHT PLAYS I HAVE EVER SEEN" Punch.

GARRICK (S) cc 01-836 4601 Evgs. 8.0. Fri. & Sat. 5.30 & 8.30
Reduced price Mats. Fridays
Group Bookings 01-379 6061.
WILLIAM FRANKLYN in
DEATHTRAP
"THE BEST THRILLER" D. T.

GLOBE S cc 01-437 1592. 439 6770. Evgs. 8.0. Sats. 6.00 & 8.35. Group Sales Box Office 01-379 6061.
"HINGE & BRACKET ARE TRIUMPHANTLY ENSCONCED AT THE GLOBE" E. Stan.
FOR A LIMITED SEASON ONLY. "MY DEAR LADIES I AM SO GLAD I CALLED. AT THE END WE WERE CALLING FOR MORE" E. News. "A SLICK WITTY ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTED WITH SUBTLETY AND HUMOUR". Daily Express.

GREENWICH THEATRE. S cc 858 7755. Eves. 8.00 Mat. Sats 2.30. SHERIDAN'S THE RIVALS. "HAPPILY RECOMMENDED". D. Tel.

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL. cc 01-930 9832. For 12 weeks only. Opens Jan. 29, prevs 27 & 28
MAGGIE SMITH IN
VIRGINIA
A new play by Edna O'Brien from the lives and writings of Virginia and Leonard Woolf. Directed by Robin Phillips. Book Now.

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL. cc 01-930 9832. Evgs. 7.45. Mat Wed 2.30. Sat 4.30 & 8.0.
LEONARD ROSSITER
PRUNELLA SCALES
in MICHAEL FRAYN'S
MAKE AND BREAK
Directed by MICHAEL BLAKEMORE
"THE BEST NEW PLAY—ALSO VERY FUNNY" OBS. "ABSOLUTELY NOT TO BE MISSED" ST. LAST 2 WEEKS ends 24 Jan.

HAMPSTEAD THEATRE. 722 9301. Jean-Claude Grumberg's
THE WORKSHOP
"NEEDS TO BE SEEN. LES MONTAGUE VOLCANICALLY COMIC. LYNN FARLEIGH SUPERBLY TRUTHFUL" Tms. Mon.-Fri. 8 p.m., Sat. 4.30 & 8 p.m.

HER MAJESTY'S. 930 6606 S cc Evgs. 8. Sat. 8.15. Wed. 3. Sat. 5. MATS. HALF PRICE. Grp Sales Box Office 379 6061. "ALL IN ALL THE BEST THING TO HAVE HAPPENED TO THE WEST END IN A VERY LONG TIME. A TOTAL AND UTTER DELIGHT" Punch.
THE STREETS OF LONDON
by Dion Boucicault
"The Whole Theatre Cheered" D. Tel.
"A MUSICAL FEAST" Now!
"Timely and what is more a great deal of fun". D. Mail.
"PRACTISE HISSING AND BOOK NOW!" E. News.

KING'S HEAD. 226 1916. Dnr 7.30. Show 8.30. SHADOW PLAY. "Best Coward revival since The National's 'Hay Fever'." Obs.

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH cc 01-741 2311. Ends 24 Jan. Ton't., Mon., Tue., Wed. 7.30. Sat., Thur. 2.30 & 7.30. THE AMUSING SPECTACLE OF CINDERELLA by Martin Duncan. With Eleanor Bron, Lesley Duff, Susan Jameson, Alison Steadman. ". . . simply the best pantomime I have ever seen". Obs.
From 29 Jan. HOBSON'S CHOICE. Cast includes Arthur Lowe, Julia McKenzie, Ronald Pickup.
LYRIC STUDIO: Last 2 Perfs.! Ton't & Tomor. 8.0 A Christmas revue for adults—ALL THE TRIMMINGS written by & featuring Roger McGough. ". . . talented entertainers . . . played with great panache". N. Std.
From Mon.—HERE'S A FUNNY THING. John Bardon as Max Miller.

LYRIC S cc 01-437 3686. evgs 8.0 Mat Wed 3.0. Sat 5.30. 8.30.
DINSDALE LANDEN
NICOLA PAGETT
in ALAN AYCKBOURN'S
TAKING STEPS
"A VERY FUNNY EVENING. I ENJOYED MYSELF ENORMOUSLY" Evening News.
"THE BEST FARCE IN TOWN"—Punch.

LYTTELTON (N.T.'s proscenium stage): Ton't. 7.45. Tomor. 3.00 & 7.45 THE BROWNING VERSION/HARLEQUINADE double-bill by Rattigan.

NATIONAL THEATRE S cc 928 2252 FOR REPERTOIRE SEE SEPARATE ENTRIES UNDER OLIVIER/LYTTELTON/COTTESLOE. Car park. Restaurant 928 2033. Credit card bkgs. 928 5933. TOURS OF THE BUILDING daily (incl. backstage) £1.80. Info. 633 0880.

OLD VIC 928 7616 cc 261 1821 "S" last perfs. Ton't. & Tomor. at 8.00 TRELAWNY OF THE WELLS Tues. & Thurs. at 7.30 (red price prev. Tues. only) Wed. at 7.00 THE RELAPSE.

OLD VIC 928 7616 cc 261 1821 "S" last perfs. Today & Tomor. at 1.30 & 4.30 TOAD OF TOAD HALL.

OLIVIER (N.T.'s open stage): Ton't, Tomor 6 p.m. (note early start) low price Prevs. MAN AND SUPERMAN (including "Don Juan in Hell") by Bernard Shaw.

PALACE. S cc. 01-437 6834
"OH WHAT A BEAUTIFUL EVENING!" Daily Mail.
Rodgers & Hammerstein's
OKLAHOMA!
"A MAGICAL MUSICAL EXPERIENCE" S. Times.
Evenings 7.30. Mats Wed. Sat. 3.00. For group bookings 01-379 6061. Better selection of seats available Mon.-Thur.

PALLADIUM 01-437 7373. Evgs 7.30. Mats daily 2.45 except Friday. JIM DAVIDSON, MOLLIE SUGDEN, WINDSOR DAVIES, MELVYN HAYES, CLIVE DUNN, LIONEL BLAIR in
DICK WHITTINGTON
"The audience, old and young, roared, screamed, yelled and laughed their approval" Fin. Times. Book now. Box Office and all agents. Credit cards accepted. Group sales box office 379 6061.

PHOENIX c.c. 01-836 2294/5. Credit Card Bookings 01-836 8611.
THAT'S SHOWBIZ!
The Sensational Variety Spectacular. OPENS FEB. 11TH AT 7.00. Subs. Twice Daily at 6.00 & 8.30. Prices: £3.50, £3.50, £4.50, £5.50.

PICCADILLY S 437 4506 cc 379 6565. Group Bkgs 379 6061/836 3962. Mon.-Fri. 8. Mat. Wed. 3. Sat 6 & 8.40 Stalls from £2.90
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE CO.
in Willy Russell's new comedy
EDUCATING RITA
COMEDY OF THE YEAR SWET AWARD 1980
"SPLENDID THEATRE EVENING QUITE ASTOUNDING"—Time Out.
"A MARVELLOUS PLAY, HILARIOUS. IT SENT ME OUT MOVED, EXCITED & EXHILARATED" S. Tms.
RSC also at Aldwych/Warehouse.

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE 930 8681. Credit Card bookings 930 0846.
PAUL DANIELS in
IT'S MAGIC
"TRIUMPH" Fin. Times. "A WINNER" Variety. "PURE MAGIC" Sun. Mirror. Mon.-Thurs. 8.0. Fri. & Sat. 6 & 8.45. NOW BOOKING UNTIL MAY.

PRINCE EDWARD. S cc Box Off. 437 6877. cc Hotline 439 8499. Grp. Booking 379 6061. Eves 8.0. Mat. Thur. (Economy price) & Sat. 3.0.
EVITA
by Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber. Dir. by Harold Prince.

QUEEN'S S. cc. 01-734 1166
Evenings 8.0. Sat. 4.50 & 8.0
TOM COURTENAY FREDDIE JONES
in THE DRESSER
"RONALD HARWOOD'S WITTY AND WARMHEARTED COMEDY" Ev. Stan. "Directed by MICHAEL ELLIOTT THE PLAY IS A DELIGHT." Daily Express.
Last Week. Must end Saturday.

QUEENS S cc 01-734 1166
PENELOPE KEITH
Peter JEFFREY Barbara FERRIS
MOVING
A new play by Stanley Price
Directed by Robert Chetwyn
Reduced price. Prev. Jan. 20. 8.0.
OPENS WED JAN 21 AT 7.0
Sub evgs 8.0. Mat Wed 3.0. Sat 5.0 & 8.15 Grp Sales 379 6061

RAYMOND REVUEBAR cc 734 1593. At 7, 9, 11 p.m. Open Suns. Paul Raymond presents THE FESTIVAL OF EROTICA. New Acts New Girls! New Thrills! 23rd sensational year! Fully air conditioned.

ROUND HOUSE 267 2564
NEW VIC THEATRE in
CANTERBURY TALES
Directed by Michael Bogdanov. "High jinx & laughter" S. Tel. Evgs 8. Mat Weds 2.30 & Sat. 5.00. Until Jan. 24.

ROUND HOUSE 267 2564
ROYAL EXCHANGE THEATRE COMPANY
THE DUCHESS OF MALFI
with HELEN MIRREN
1 April-9 May
HAVE YOU ANYTHING TO DECLARE?
13 May-6 June
THE MISANTHROPE
with TOM COURTENAY
1 July-1 August
Postal Booking now Open. Season Tkt. Available.

ROUND HOUSE 267 2564
Scarborough Theatre in the Round in SUBURBAN STRAINS by ALAN AYCKBOURN & PAUL TODD. Feb 2 - Mar 14.

ROYAL COURT. S cc 730 1745
TOUCHED
by Stephen Lowe. Prevs. Ton't., Tomor. & Mon. 8. Opns. Tues. 7. Mon. all seats £2.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE UPSTAIRS 730 2554. World Premiere of FOUR IN A MILLION devised and Dir. by Les Blair. Prevs. from 20 Jan. 7.30. Opens 23 Jan. 7.

SAVOY THEATRE 01-836 8888
JOHN ALDERTON PAULINE COLLINS
"PLAY OFF EACH OTHER BEAUTIFULLY . . . TOUCHING, FUNNY AND VERY MUCH ALIVE" Gdn.
in Charles Dyer's comedy
RATTLE OF A SIMPLE MAN
"COULD HAVE BEEN SCRIPTED FOR THEM" Times. "A THEATRICAL GEM" The People. Reduced Group Bookings 839 3092. Credit Card bookings. Only 01-839 2751 (9.30 a.m.-6.30 p.m.), Sats 9.30 a.m.-4.30 p.m. Last 2 Weeks—Season end January 24.

ST. MARTIN'S. cc 836 1443. Evgs. 8. Tue. 2.45. Sats. 5 & 8.
AGATHA CHRISTIE'S
THE MOUSETRAP
29th YEAR

STRAND cc 01-836 2660, 01-836 4143. Evs. 8.0. Thurs. 3.0. Sats 5.30 & 8.30.
NO SEX PLEASE WE'RE BRITISH
Directed by Allan Davis
Group sales box office 379 6061

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON Royal Shakespeare Theatre (0789) 292271. Amex Cards (0789) 297129. Info (0789) 69191. ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY IN
RICHARD III
tonight & 21 Jan. 7.30. "The RSC has laid out all its treasures" F. Times. AS YOU LIKE IT tomor. 2.00. ROMEO AND JULIET tomor. 7.30 (last perf.). RICHARD II 20 Jan. 7.30. HAMLET 23 Jan. 7.30.

SHAFTESBURY. cc Shaftesbury Ave., W.C.2. Tel. Box Office 01-836 6596 or 01-836 4255. Credit Card booking only 01-839 7516 or 01-839 4682 (9.30-6.00, Sats. 9.30-4.30) Group bookings only 01-839 3092
TOM CONTI & GEMMA CRAVEN
THEY'RE PLAYING OUR SONG
GEMMA CRAVEN ACTRESS OF THE YEAR IN A MUSICAL WEST-END THEATRE AWARDS.
"This show is a real stunner. Two of the most engaging performances in London." D. Mail. If possible book at least 28 days in advance by post. Send S.A.E. and cheque. Prices: Stalls & Royal Circle £8.00, £6.50, £5.00. Circle £5.50 (£1.00 seats at Box Office) (OAP's £4.00 Wed. Mats. best seats. Student Standby £4.00). Mon.-Fri. Evgs. 8.0. Mats. Wed. 3.0. Sats. 5.0 & 8.30. (Some good seats available Wed Mats.)

TRICYCLE THEATRE, 269 Kilburn High Rd., NW6. 328 8626 Pip Simmons Theatre Group presents "RIEN NE VA PLUS" Mon-Sat. 8p.m. "A delight" Tms. "Sheer entertainment" N. Std.

VAUDEVILLE S CC 01-836 9988. Twice daily 2.45 & 7.45. Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber's SMASH HIT MUSICAL
JOSEPH
AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOUR DREAMCOAT

VICTORIA PALACE cc 01-828 4735/6. 01-834 1317. Evgs. 7.30. Wednesday & Saturday 2.45. Group Sales 01-379 6061.
ANNIE
"UNBEATABLE FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT" Observer.

WAREHOUSE Donmar Theatre, Earlham Street, Covent Garden. Box Office 836 6808. ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY. Ton't, Tomor 7.30, seats available for premiere production NAKED ROBOTS, by Jonathan Gems. All seats £3.50. Students £2.00 in advance from Aldwych Box Office.

WESTMINSTER. S. CC. 834 0283 Hugh Manning as C. S. Lewis in
SONG OF THE LION
"TRULY IMPRESSIVE" Times. "SPELLBINDING" S.Telegraph. Evenings 7.45 till Feb. 7.

WHITEHALL THEATRE 930 7765 cc Paul Raymond presents
FIONA RICHMOND
and a Bedful of Beauties in
WOT! NO PYJAMAS!
Evgs 8.30, Fri. & Sat. 6.15 & 8.30
Must terminate Sat. Jan 24. Prior to National Tour.

WINDMILL THEATRE cc 01-437 6312. Twice nightly at 8.0 & 10.0. Sunday 6.0 & 8.0 PAUL RAYMOND presents RIP OFF. Hotter than ever for 1981. The erotic experience of the modern era. 5th Great Year.

WYNDHAM'S. S 836 3028. cc 379 6565. Red. price. Grps 836 3962. Mon.-Fri 8.00. Sat. 6 & 8.40.
ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST
"Exactly the shot in the arm that the West End needed" S Times. "One of the funniest shows London has seen in a very long time" Punch. "Hilarious" D.Tel.

YOUNG VIC 928 6363. Tues to Sat 7.30 KAFKA'S THE TRIAL. (Last perfs.) Now Bkg Pygmalion plus Rosencrantz. Studio: 7.45 Tim Thomas.

TALK OF THE TOWN. 01-734 5061. Air-conditioning. Credit cards. LONDON'S GREAT NIGHT OUT From 8.00. Dining & Dancing 9.30 SUPER REVUE "BUBBLY" at 11: VINCE HILL DANCING TILL 1 A.M.

CINEMAS

ABC 1 & 2 Shaftesbury Ave. 836 8861. Sep. perfs. ALL SEATS BKBLE.
1: FLASH GORDON (A). Wk. & Sun. 2.00, 5.15, 8.15.
2: THE ELEPHANT MAN (AA). Wk. & Sun. 1.30, 4.45, 8.00.

ACADEMY 1. 437 2981. 4th month Joseph Losey's film of Mozart's DON GIOVANNI (A) perfs. 1.00 (not Sun.), 4.10, 7.40.

ACADEMY 2. 437 5129. Alain Resnais' MY AMERICAN UNCLE (A). Progs. 1.10, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30.

ACADEMY 3. 437 8819. Cocteau's ORPHEE (A) and Renoir's PARTIE DE CAMPAGNE (A) Progs. 5.45, 8.15. Sats./Suns. also 3.15.

CAMDEN PLAZA. Camden Town 485 2443 (opp. Tube). GODARD'S SLOW MOTION (Sauve Qui Peut: La Vie) (X). 3.30, 5.20, 7.10, 9.10.

COLUMBIA. Shaftesbury Ave. (734 5414) THE BLUE LAGOON (AA) Cont. progs. dly. 2.30, 4.40, 6.40, 8.40. Late show Sat. 11.00.

CURZON. Curzon St., W.1. 499 3737 Bertrand Tavernier's UNE SEMAINE DE VACANCES (AA) (English sub-titles). Progs at 2.0 (not Sun.), 4.05, 6.20 and 8.40. Last 6 days.

DOMINION, Tott. Court Rd. (580 9562). THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK (U). Sep. progs. 2.30, 7.40. Sun. 3.20, 7.05.

EMPIRE. Leicester Square. 437 1234. Seats bookable for last evening perfs. Mon.-Fri. and all perfs. Sat. and Sun. (not late night shows) at the box office (12 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon.-Sat.) or by post. No telephone bookings. SMOKEY & THE BANDIT RIDE AGAIN (AA). Sep. progs. daily 1.00, (not Suns) 3.30, 6.00, 8.30. Late show Fri & Sat 11.15 p.m. Now RITZ Leicester Square SOMEWHERE IN TIME (A). Sep. progs. daily 1.00 (not Suns) 3.30, 6.00, 8.30.

GATE CINEMA, Nott. Hill. 221 0220/727 5750. STARDUST MEMORIES (AA) 1.00, 2.35, 4.15, 6.00, 7.45, 9.30. JUBILEE (X) & SEBASTIANE (X) 11.15 p.m.

GATE TWO CINEMA. 837 8402/1177. Russ. Sq. Tube. KAGEMUSHA (A) 2.15, 5.15, 8.15. GABLE AND LOMBARD (AA) & W. C. FIELDS AND ME (AA) 11.00 p.m. LIC'D BAR.

GATE THREE CINEMA. 267 1201/485 2446. Camden Twn. Tb. KAGEMUSHA (A) IN STEREO SOUND. 2.15, 5.15, 8.15. LIC'D BAR. Last 6 days.

GATE MAYFAIR 493 2031 MAYFAIR HOTEL, Stratton St. Green Park Tube. KAGEMUSHA (A). 5.30, 8.20. Seats Bkble. STS BKBLE AFTER 5 p.m.

LEICESTER SQUARE THEATRE (930 5252). Jack Lemmon in TRIBUTE (AA). Sep Progs Dly (inc Sun). Drs Open 2.10, 5.10, 8.10. Late Show Fri & Sat Drs Open 11.15. Seats Bookable W/Ends, Last Eve Prog & Late Shows.

MINEMA 45 Knightsbridge 235-4225/6. Andrey Tarkovsky's "MIRROR" (U) (Russian dialogue—English subtitles). Daily: 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.00. Late Night Show Fri & Sat 11.00 p.m.

ODEON HAYMARKET (930 2738/2771) Roy Scheider in a Bob Fosse Film ALL THAT JAZZ (X). Sep. progs. Dly. 1.30 (not Sun). 4.40, 8.00.

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (930 6111) THE DOGS OF WAR (AA). Sep. Progs. Drs. Open Dly. 1.30, 4.30, 7.45. Late night show Fri. & Sat. Drs. open 11.15.

ODEON ST. MARTIN'S LANE. BEING THERE (AA). For info 240 0071. Box Office 836 0691. Sep Progs Dly 1.50, 5.00, 8.10.

ODEON MARBLE ARCH, W2 (723 2011/2). HAWK THE SLAYER (A). Sep. Progs. Drs. Open Dly. 1.45 (not Sun.). 4.30, 7.30. Evening programmes & Weekends may be booked in advance.

PLAZA 1, 2, 3, 4 off Piccadilly Circus. 437 1234. Advance booking facilities same as EMPIRE Leicester Square.
Walter Matthau, Glenda Jackson
• *1. HOPSCOTCH (AA). Sep. progs. daily 1.00 (not Suns.), 3.30, 6.00, 8.30. Late show Fri & Sat. 11.15 p.m.
• *2. AIRPLANE (A). Sep. progs. daily 1.00 (not Suns.), 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.00. Late show Fri & Sat. 11.15 p.m.
*3. LIFE OF BRIAN (AA). Sep. progs. daily 1.00 (not Suns.), 3.30, 6.00, 8.35. Late show Fri. & Sat. 11.15 p.m.
• 4. SEEMS LIKE OLD TIMES (A). Sep. progs. daily 1.00 (not Suns.) 3.30, 6.00, 8.30. Late show Fri. & Sat. 11.15 p.m.
• *No Smoking Area.
*No Smoking.

PRINCE CHARLES, Leic. Sq. 437 8181. British Premiere Exclusive Presentation CALIGULA (X). Sep perfs Dly (inc Sun.) 2.15, 5.30, 8.45. Late show Fri & Sat 11.55 Seats bkble. Lic'd bar.

SCREEN ON THE HILL. 435 3366. Woody Allen, STARDUST MEMORIES (AA). 3.20, 5.15, 7.10, 9.15. Ring 435 9787 after 3 p.m. for phone bookings.

STUDIO 3, Oxford Circus. 437 3300. Lic'd Bar. THE DEER HUNTER (X). 12.45, 4.05, 7.50. Late Show Sat. 10.50

EVENTS

WEMBLEY ARENA cc 01-902 1234
HOLIDAY ON ICE
WITH ROBIN COUSINS
Tues. to Fri. 7.45. Mats. Weds. 3. Sats 2, 5 & 8 (2 & 5 perfs sold out). Suns. 2.00 & 5.30 (No Perf Mons). £2.20 to £5.20.
CHILDREN HALF PRICE.
Spacious car park. Season until Feb 22.

ART GALLERIES

ANTHONY d'OFFAY, 9 & 23 Dering St., W.1. William Roberts/Gilbert & George. 01-629 1578.

BONNARD TO ZORN
150th exhibition of fine 19th & 20th Century etchings & lithographs. Illus. cat. 75p. Mon-Fri 10-6. Sat 10.30-1.
WILLIAM WESTON GALLERY
7 Royal Arcade, Albemarle St. W.1

BRITISH LIBRARY (in Brit. Museum). BENEDICTINES IN BRITAIN. Until 1 Feb. GEORGE ELIOT. Until 26 April. TUDOR MAP-MAKING. Until 31 Dec. Wkdys. 10-5. Suns. 2.30-6. Adm. free.

FINE ART SOCIETY
148 New Bond Street, W.1.
01-629 5116
GLUCK

FISCHER FINE ART, 30 Kings St., St. James's, S.W.1. 839 3942. HANS HARTUNG. Until 13 Feb. Mon-Fri 10-5.30. Sats 10-12.30.

MARLBOROUGH, 6 Albemarle St., W.1. JOHN WONNACOTT First London Exhibition 17 Dec-31 Jan 81. Mon-Fri 10-5.30. Sat 10-12.30. Closed 25-27 Dec & 1-3 Jan.

MARSHALL SPINK, 18 Albemarle St., W.1. A.P.T. inc. presents three centuries of flower and still life paintings 1600-1900. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Thursdays until 9 p.m. Saturday until 1 p.m.

PARKIN GALLERY, 11 Motcomb St., S.W.1. 01-235 8144. BRITISH ART 1890-1950. Paintings, watercolours, drawings. Till 21 Feb.

PATRICK SEALE GALLERY, 2 Motcomb St., Belgravia, SW1. Paintings by EMILIE CHARMY. Until end Jan. 01-235 0934.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS
Piccadilly, W.1.
A NEW SPIRIT IN PAINTING
Until 18 March. Open dly. 10-6. Adm. £2.00. Concessionary rate £1.40—O.A.P.s, students, groups over 10—and until 1.45 p.m. Suns.

THE LITTLE ANTIQUE SHOP, 9 Hereford Rd., W.2. 01-221 4578. Prints, Victorian Paintings, Books and Porcelain. Tues-Fri., 10-6. Sat. 11-3.

NOTICE

All advertisements are subject to the conditions of acceptance of Times Newspapers Limited, copies of which are available on request.

Classified Guide

Box No. replies should be addressed to: The Times, P.O. Box 7, New Printing House Square, Gray's Inn Road, London, WC1X 8EZ.

How to Place a Classified Ad.

To place an advertisement in any of these categories, tel.:

Private Advertisers Only	01-837 3311
Appointments	01-278 9161
Property Estate Agents	01-278 9231
Personal Trade	01-278 9351
Manchester Office	061-834 1234

Queries in connection with advertisements that have appeared, other than cancellations or alterations, tel.: Classified Queries Department 01-837 1234, Extn 7180. All advertisements are subject to the conditions of acceptance of Times Newspapers Limited, copies of which are available on request.

The deadline for all copy is one clear publishing day, i.e. Monday is the deadline for Wednesday, Friday for Monday & Tuesday. Stops and Alterations to copy is 3.0 p.m. prior to the day of publication; for Monday's issue the deadline is 12 noon Saturday. On all cancellations a Stop Number will be issued to the advertiser. On any subsequent queries regarding the cancellation, this Stop Number must be quoted.

Classified Rates

Personal Columns	£3.25 per line £17.50 per cm semi-display £20.00 per full display
Appointments	£3.25 per line £17.50 per cm semi-display £20.00 per full display
Property	£3.25 per line £17.50 per cm semi-display £20.00 per full display
Weekend Shoparound	£14.00 per cm full display, minimum 5 cms
Court Circular	£5.00 per line
Box Numbers	£5.00

". . . LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear."—Psalm 10: 17.

BIRTHS

BOONE.—On January 14, to Penelope and Christopher—a daughter.

BOORER.—On January 12th at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, to Caroline (nee Jackson) and David—a daughter, sister for Nicholas and Joanna.

BRERETON.—On January 14th, to Elizabeth (nee Peto) and William—a son (Nicholas Sadleir).

BRODIE.—On January 14th 1981, at St. Mary's Hospital, Lindo Wing to Elizabeth (Gloster) and Stanley—a son (Samuel Rufus), a brother for Henrietta, Charlotte and Sophie.

COLLIS.—On January 13th, 1981, at Ronkswood Hospital, Worcester, to Linda (nee Goodman) and Nigel—a daughter (Victoria Margaret Linda).

CORDEY.—On January 13th to Jennifer (nee Horner) and Neil—a daughter (Anna Louise).

FOSTER.—On January 13th, at St. Catherine's Hospital, Birkenhead, to Alison and Tony—a daughter (Claire Elizabeth).

HAMMICK.—On January 12th, 1981, at The Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, to Amanda (nee May) and Timothy—a daughter (Lucy Grace).

HORSEY.—On January 3rd in Poole, Dorset to Madeleine (nee Robinson) and Ian—a daughter (Emma).

RAYNER.—On 15th January to Cressida (nee Jeff), wife of Murray—a daughter (Miranda Elizabeth).

SHELLEY.—On January 14th, at Ipswich Hospital, to Gilly and Martin—a son.

TEARE.—On January 13th, to Nigel and Jane (Pentecost), at the West London Hospital—a son (Roland John).

WALKER.—On December 23rd, in Williamsburg, Virginia, to Julia (nee Neave) and Jonathan—a daughter (Megan Philippa).

WEAIT.—On 15th Jan. to Pam and John—a daughter (Victoria Claire).

WHITFIELD on 14th January at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Penny (née Craig) and Hugh—a son, brother for Angus.

WINDUST.—On January 14th to Christine (nee Broughton) and Simon the gift of a daughter (Elissa), a sister for Adam.

YOUNG.—On January 14th, at Odstock, to Henrietta (nee Heyman) and John—a son (George), a brother for Clementine and Harry.

BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY. Together again soon. Love Tan.

DEATHS

BOWER.—On January 14th, 1981, peacefully at Garth Nursing Home, Dorking, Victoria Alice Beatrice Bower, aged 83 years, late of Warren Road, Reigate, dearly loved mother of the late Michael Bower. Funeral service at the Surrey and Sussex Crematorium on Wednesday, 21st January at 12 noon. Enquiries to: Stoneman Funeral Services, Tel: Redhill 63456.

BYRD.—On January 15th, 1981, peacefully at his home, The Manor House, Little Comberton, Worcestershire, John, much loved husband of Phyl and loved father and grandfather. Funeral at St. Peter's Church, Little Comberton on Monday, 19th at 2.30 p.m. Family flowers only, please.

FANE.—On January 14th, suddenly at home, Mike, beloved husband of Carole and father of Nick, Mark, Peter and Tim. Funeral arrangements to be announced later. No letters, please.

FARMER.—On January 13th, 1981, peacefully in his sleep at 32, Westwood Road, Birkenhead, Herbert Henry, Professor Emeritus, Westminster College, Camb. Dearly loved husband, father and grandad. Cremation at Landican, Birkenhead, on Monday, January 19th at 11 a.m. No flowers but donations to Christian Aid, 240 Ferndale Road, S.W.9.

FENN.—On 11th January, Harold James Fenn, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., peacefully at Savernake Hospital. Memorial service 2 p.m., Saturday, 17th January, at Great Bedwyn Parish Church.

GALLAGHER, EDITH ANNIE.—On January 6th, 1981, of 15 Mulberry Close, 6A North Drive, London, S.W.16. Wife of the late Dr. G. H. Gallagher. Requiem Mass, Wednesday, 21st January, 9.30 a.m. at the Church of The English Martyrs, Streatham, followed by interment at Streatham Park Cemetery. Flowers to Maxwell Brothers, 556 Streatham High Road, London, S.W.16.

GATRELL.—On 13th January, 1981, John, dear husband of Daphne and loving father of David. Service at Putney Vale Crematorium, at 12.15 p.m., on Tuesday, January 20th.

GOTELEE.—On 13th January, 1981, at Ipswich Hospital, Suffolk Allan Arthur. Private cremation. Memorial service will be announced later. Donations for Cancer Research may be sent to Singleton & Hastings Funeral Service, 21-25 Berners St., Ipswich.

GRANT.—On January 14th, at Weatherpoint, Seaford, in her 103rd year, peacefully, Muriel Ethel Fanny, widow of Colonel Maurice Harold Grant, mother of Michael, mother-in-law of Anne-Sophie, grandmother of Patrick and Antony, aunt and great aunt. Very much loved by all. Cremation service at Woodvale Crematorium, Brighton, on January 22nd, at 2.30 p.m.

HAGENBUCH, WALTER, O.B.E., M.A.—On 14th January, suddenly at his home, Longley House, Cites Lane, Canterbury, dear husband of Irene, father of Winifred and Peter, grandfather of Jamie and Toby.

HURST.—On January 13th, 1981, at The Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester, Cicely Joan (nee Welchman), dearly loved wife of Colonel Nick Hurst, M.C., beloved mother of Anna Mallinson, Cynthia Thompson and Nicholas, and grandmother of Patrick and Thomas, Emma and Lucinda, and Annabel and Amanda. Funeral service at Compton Church on Monday, January 19th, at 11.30 a.m. No letters, please. No flowers, but donations if desired to The Arthritis and Rheumatism Council, care of John Steel and Son, Chesil House, Winchester.

DEATHS

INNES.—On January 15th, suddenly in Watford, Jean, aged 89, widow of Robert Faraday Innes and dearly loved mother of Alison, Jim, John and Maureen. Funeral Garston crematorium Wednesday, January 21st at 2 p.m. Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, to British Rheumatism and Arthritis Association, c/o 31 Cassiobury Drive, Watford, Herts.

LEON (nee Waldman).—On Monday 12th January after many years of ill health Rhoda, much loved mother of Simon Rubin, Matthew grandmother of and sister of Leonard Waldman. Cremation at Golders Green Crematorium (West Chapel), Sunday 18th January, 11.30 a.m. Prayers Sunday, 18th January, 8 p.m. flat 21,169 Queens Gate, London, S.W.7.

MAINGARD DE LA VILLE-ES-OFFRANS.—On January 12, 1981, in Mauritius after a long illness, borne with much courage and dignity, Amedee (Dede) Maingard de la Ville-es-Offrans, C.B.E., D.S.O., Legion d'Honneur, Croix de Guerre. Beloved husband of Jacqueline and father of Jan, Didier and Veronique. Remembered by his many friends.

MERCER.—Mabel Mary, peacefully on 14th January, 1981, the beloved wife of Thomas Harold Mercer, F.C.A., Hon. Alderman, of 22 Heathfield Rd., Farmhill, Stroud, Glous, and dear mother of John and Brian for who's wives Paddy and Pat and their 6 children she had such affection. No mourning. After a private cremation a Thanksgiving Service will be held at Painswick Church at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, 20th January. Cut flowers or donations for Dr. Barnardos Homes and Save the Children Fund to Burdock & Sons, Funeral Directors, Painswick, Glous.

MESURE.—On 15th January, peacefully at St Christopher's Hospice, Sydenham, after a long illness, Edward Lyana of Haysford Park, Bromley, much loved husband of Lorna and loving father of Simon. Service at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, 21st January at Beckenham Crematorium. Donations to St Christopher's Hospice, Lawrie Park Road, Sydenham SE26. Flowers to H. Copeland & Son Ltd, 9 Bromley Road, Beckenham, Kent (01-650 2295) by 9.30 am Wednesday.

MILLER-MUNDY.—On 13th January, Bridget Eileen Suzanne, sister of Michael Smiley and half-sister of Jacqueline Carlisle. Cremation private. No letters, please. A service of Thanksgiving for her life will be held at St. George's Church, Eastergate, near Barnham, Sussex, on Monday, 9th February, at 12 noon.

MURPHY, FRANK E.—On January 13th at Plaistow Hospital, E.15, of 59 Forest View Rd., Manor Park E.12, and the Methodist Seamen's Mission. Beloved husband of Dorothy and father of Tom and Joyce. Service at Manor Park Methodist Church (corner of Herbert Road), on January 20th at 2 p.m., followed by cremation at the City of London Crematorium, Manor Park, E.12. No flowers, donations may be sent to The Seamen's Mission, Queen Victoria Seamen's Rest, Poplar, E.14.

NOLAN.—On 14th January 1981, peacefully in hospital after a long illness borne with great fortitude, Harold George Beaufoi, much loved husband of Elisabeth (Betty) and father of Betsy and John. Funeral service on Thursday 22nd January at 12 noon at Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham. Family flowers only but if desired donations may be sent to The Chest, Heart and Stroke Association, Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, London WC1.

PEASE.—On January 14th of Skerby Manor, Richmond, North Yorkshire, Mary Ethelwyn, aged 88 years. Funeral service to be held in St. Michael's Church, Middleton Tyas, on Monday January 19th at 2 p.m., followed by cremation. No flowers, by request.

POYNER-WALL.—On 14th January, 1981, at Quaker House, New Milton, aged 89 years, Edith Maud (Vereen), wife of the late W. G. Poyner-Wall, I.S.S., beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral service on Monday, 19th January, at the Gore Road Chapel at 1.45 p.m., followed by interment at New Milton Cemetery. Inquiries to H. B. and E. Mudge: Bournemouth 36401.

ROBERTSON.—On January 12th, suddenly, Peggy, wife of the late John, mother of Jane and Susie and grandmother of Henrietta.

ROCHFORD, SISTER VERONICA S.H.C.J. (Winifred).—On 15th January, 1981, peacefully at Mayfield. Requiem Tuesday, 20th January at 11.30 a.m. at The Holy Child Convent, Mayfield. No flowers, please.

SMITH.—On December 22nd, 1980, at St. John's Wood, London, Mrs. Jessie Ann McDonald, aged 86 years. Funeral service at Golders Green Crematorium, London, in the East Chapel at 10.50 a.m. All enquiries to R. P. Sherry and Son Telephone 01-723 0425.

TREE.—On January 3rd in hospital P. H. Norman, aged 65, father of Mike, cremation January 15th in Vienna.

WALSHAM.—On January 13th, 1981, peacefully, in hospital, Tamara, of 129 Ram Gorse, Harlow, beloved wife of Bob, formerly of the Chinese Maritime Customs Service, and a very much loved mother of Diane and Gerry. Service to take place at Parndon Wood Crematorium, Harlow, on Wednesday, 21st January at 2 p.m. Flowers to Daniel Robinson & Sons, Wych Elm, Harlow. Tel.: (0379) 26990.

WALTERS.—On January 14th, in hospital, Commander J. D. Walters R.N., aged 83, of, 47 Croydon Road, Reigate, Surrey, dearly loved by his wife Letty and his children Paul and Carol and his grandchildren Stephen, Alec, Fenella, Nicky, Demetri and Antonia. Funeral private. Service of thanksgiving to be announced later. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to the Reigate Borough Sea Cadets Unit, care of Gordon Simmons, The Market Hall, Redhill, Surrey.

WEBB.—On January 14 Henry Carleton (Harry) dearly loved husband of Maureen and beloved brother of Alfred. Funeral service at Putney Vale crematorium on Wednesday, January 21st, at 3 p.m. Flowers to J. H. Kenyon Ltd., 132 Freston Rd., London, W10.

WRIGHT.—On 14th January, peacefully, in Harrow, Cottage Hospital, Constance, aged 93. Funeral service at Breakspear Crematorium on 21st January at 1.15 p.m. (West Chapel). Flowers to: T. A. Ellement, Bridge St., Pinner.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

DOWNWARD.—A memorial service for the late Brian Sutton Downward will be held on Thursday, 5th February, 1981, at 11.30 a.m., at St. James's Church, Piccadilly, London, W.1.

KERMACK, NICHOLAS OGILVY.—Service will be held at Magdalen College Chapel, Oxford on Wednesday, January 21st at 2.15 p.m.

THORN.—A memorial service for Sir Jules Thorn will be held at the Temple Church, Temple, London EC4 on Thursday, 5th February at 4.45 p.m.

WILLIAMS.—A requiem communion service in memory of Brigadier T. E. Williams, C.B.E., will be held at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, on Saturday, 24th January at 11 a.m.

IN MEMORIAM

DOLAN, PATRICK, died January 16th, 1980. For the Probity of Art. S.

JAN PALACH.—Remembering him and other Czechoslovak students and writers.—Stephen Spender.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

BE MORE IN CONTROL OF YOUR LIFE

SILVA MIND CONTROL

Deep relaxation — dynamic meditation — mind training FREE LECTURES:

Mon. Jan 19, 7.30 pm. Charing Cross Hotel, Strand, WC2
Tues. Jan 20, 7.30 pm. Great Western Royal Hotel, Praed St, W2.

Wed. Jan 21, 7.30 pm. Swiss Cottage Public Library, NW3.
Thurs. Jan 22, 7.30 pm. Charing Cross Hotel, Strand WC2.
Fri. Jan 23, 7.30 pm. Great Western Royal Hotel, Praed St, W2.

Sun. Jan 25, 6.30 pm. Great Western Royal Hotel, Praed St, W2.

Mon. Jan 26, 6.45 pm. SAOB, 33 Belgrave Sq. SW1.

Enquiries: (01) 493 1815 (24hrs)

DIAMONDS

"Blue ground to brilliant" "Teach-Ins" are held each month in Hatton Garden over seven hours of in depth information on all facets of the diamond industry. Only twenty places are available at each "Teach-In".
Details from

Diamond Grading Laboratories Ltd.,
57A, HATTON GARDEN, LONDON, EC1.
01-405 8045/6/7.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEEK AND YOU WILL FIND on 21-1-81.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION owners in Devon, Cornwall, Dorset and Somerset: If your hotel, guest house, cottage or flat is fully booked for the whole of 1981, ignore this announcement. If not, phone Fiona, Helen, Jeanne or Monica now on 01-837 3311, then put your feet up while our "Holidays in Great Britain and Ireland" feature works for you.

HWYL is something that comes to those owners of Welsh hotels and holiday homes who take advantage of our rates in the Welsh section of The Times' Holidays and Hotels of Great Britain, featured every Saturday. If you want some of that hwyl and a healthier bank balance to boot stop brooding about Cardiff Arms Park on Saturday—ring Joe Evans on 01-278 9161 as quickly as possible!

ANCESTRY, RESEARCH? P. J. Harter, BA Hons. Stafford 41253 evenings.

US IMMIGRATION PROBLEMS?—See Services today.

TEDDY BEAR DELIVERIES? Our friendly 7ft Teddy Bear delivers champagne etc. See Services.

BALLOONS for Valentine's Day. See services.

"FRIENDS, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears". Thwarted drama student seeks patron. Refs available. 01-794 5147 after 6.

LUXURY. — Company Service Suite. Personal Service! See short lets.

IQ test/membership details from Mensa (8), FREEPOST, Wolverhampton WV2 1BR. Tel.: 0902 26055.

INTERNATIONAL Publishing Co. requires Secretary. See La Creme.

GETTING MARRIED?—Chauffeur driven Rolls-Royce (competitive rates), from Montgomery.—See Car Buyers Guide today.

HAPPIER LIVES for lonely old people can be provided by your Will. Please include a bequest for the National Benevolent Fund for the Aged, 12 Liverpool Street, London EC2.

OLD DOLLS WANTED—by private lady collector—See Wanted column.

THE PERSE School For Girls, Cambridge, January 17th, 1881. Old Pupils are invited to write to the School for details of the Centenary celebrations during this year.

LES CHATELAINS DE FRANCE propose exchange visits or paying-guests for boys and girls, aged 14 to 18, from cultured families. Please write C.D.F. 53400 CRAON, France.

TAMESA fabrics sale. See seasonal sales for details.

HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT volunteers required to take part in re-creation of everyday Tudor life at an historic Tudor Manor House. Live in the past for 2 weeks (June 29th-July 12th, 1981). Craft or period skills or aptitudes especially welcome, but not essential. Any age, even families. Hard work, but fun. Please write Kentwell Hall, Long Melford, Suffolk. Please send S.A.E.

USEFUL FLAT. Prince of Wales Drive. Only £38,000.—See Prop.

CLILVERD.—Any descendant of Graham or Ralph please ring 0903 200034.

THE EAST GRINSTEAD RESEARCH Trust.—The Chairman and Trustees, together with the research and clinical staff of the hospital, would like to express their gratitude for the anonymous gift of £20,000 for the furtherance of their research.

ST. JAMES'S—The Abbey welcome all Old Girls for lunch on Wed., 4th Feb. at 12.30 at R. Leney's flat, 2a Blenheim Road, Bedford Park, London, W.4. Tickets £2 from Mrs. D. Wheeler, Robins Croft, Fairmile Lane, Cobham, Surrey.

PRINTED CIRCUITS W.Q.—See Reader Services Guide every Monday.

BETH, I love you.—G.B.

ATTRACTIVE. Rent-free flat. See Rentals today.

TIMES CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING WORKS

A ROOM WITH A VIEW!

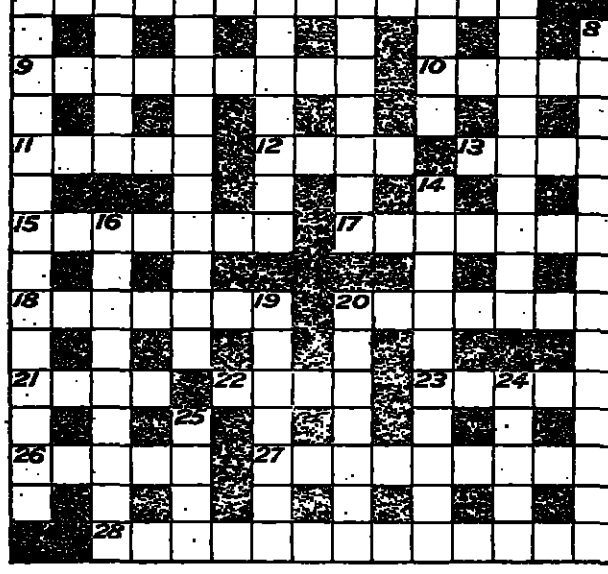
NEWLY converted self-contained furnished flat overlooking Clapham Common. Spacious lounge, 2 bedrooms, dining room, kitchen, bathroom & separate W.C. Gas C.H. Suitable for 2/3 young people sharing; £60 p.w. payable monthly.

By 10.00 am on the first day of a series booking (4 consecutive days with 5th one free) this advertisement was cancelled by a delighted advertiser whose only problem was which applicant to choose!

With a view to letting your rooms—

RING 01-837 3311

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,425



ACROSS

1 Higgins's job (referring to Eliza as a sweetie) (5-8).
9 Fair description of the skill of certain pyramid builders (9).
10 Waterway painter to some extent (5).
11 Constable's put-up job? (5).
12 Arrange for season's return (4).
13 Western Isle singer (4).
15 Stays to reorganize the seminar (7).
17 Note incentive that's getting us worked up (7).
18 Raiders who came against one college (7).
20 Some call it hunting (5-2).
21 Missing the last word in a Shakespeare play (4).
22 Architect in naval service (4).
23 Arch beggar's plea (5).
26 Order essential in the dictionary (5).
27 Furniture for the sea-side concert party? (4-5).
28 New members on the field at Twickenham (5-8).

DOWN

1 His extraordinary tales will be out of this world (5-9).
2 Ideas in embryo for minimal weapons of war? (5).
3 Mutineer takes pride in uprisings (10).
4 Oriental appears to hold the first of these values (7).
5 Tend to give a rise? (7).
6 Part of foot appearing to move slowly (4).
7 Gaiety nil, though oddly a kindly spirit (9).
8 Characteristic of the spirit of Noel (14).
14 We hear song-writer delivering what sounds like great stuff (4-6).
16 Create oblong garment as temporary expedient (9).
19 On balance moral doubt has little effect (7).
20 Place for back-seat driver when aunt is out with one (7).
24 Inspire one with honour, said you in this (5).
25 State representative to take the lead (4).

Solution of Puzzle No 15,424

BASILISK SHAMAN
E A O W T P L
ALLEGIANCE PILL
R V W D A L E
DIAMONDWEDDING
E T O L F E R
DWINDLE SANDBOX
O E S R
PANURGE STAMINA
L T I A C G R
CROCODILETEARS
H P N T U D E
LEVI ASPIRATION
M A R R T E A
SYDNEY CEREBRAL

PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGE 22

ANNOUNCEMENTS

709,000 BOOKINGS!?

If you're an hotelier or U.K. holiday home owner, read on—Our successful holiday columns are read by 709,000 U.K. holiday goers—nearly half of whom holiday TWICE a year in Great Britain.
Our special feature will run every Saturday for 20 weeks commencing January 3rd and will cover all renowned areas and resorts of England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales and the Channel Islands. There are special discounts of up to 25% for long term bookings.
So—whether you specialize in weekend breaks, children's holidays or hedonistically sumptuous fortnights—ring us now, and we'll advise you on the best way to enjoy a prosperous new year!

01-837 3311

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL CHOIR SCHOOL
VOICE TRIALS

Applications are invited from Catholic boys aged between 7½ and 9½ on September 1st, 1981.
Generous Scholarships available. Voice Trials on Saturday, 21st February.
Full details from Headmaster, Westminster Cathedral Choir School, Ambrosden Avenue, London SW1P 1QH.

CANCER RESEARCH

Much is known about cancer—but not yet enough to bring it under control. Your personal donation to our work will go directly to helping the highest level of scientific research.

IMPERIAL CANCER RESEARCH FUND
ROOM 160 AB, P.O. BOX 123
LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS
LONDON, WC2A 3PX.

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE GASLIGHT of St. James's London's more interesting businessman's night club, 3 bars, restaurant, dancing, cabaret spots. No membership required. Open Mon.-Fri. 8 p.m.-3 a.m., Sat., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. 4 Duke of York St, S.W.1. 01-930 1648/4950.

ROYAL OVER-SEAS LEAGUE, Park Place, St. James's. The elegant conference and banquet venue. Contact Banqueting Manager. 01-493 5051.

THE DIRECTORS LODGE CLUB. Visit one of London's longest established gentlemen's clubs. Medieval atmosphere — exciting cabaret—beautiful girls. Entrance £5 non members. 13 Masons Yard, Duke St., St. James, S.W.1. Mon.-Sat. 6.30 p.m. to 3.00 a.m. Tel. 930 2540.

YACHTS AND BOATS
CHARTER AND HIRE

CARIBBEAN CRUISE from Antigua. 40ft. crewed sloop. £300 p.w. Four max. Till March 31st. 01-223 4183.

SPORT AND RECREATION

SPRING SALMON fishing, w/ends. Trout courses. Bingham, Coryton, Okehampton.

ARTHUR MURRAY.—We were only kidding—come dancing! Call Strand 930 0637.

WIMBLEDON FORTNIGHT.—Double bedroom and breakfast in luxury home 10 mins. tennis; one pair of seats Court One every day, one pair of seats Centre Court two days each week including final; £1,000 inclusive. Refs. required.—Box 2528 F, The Times.

SEASONAL SALES

INDESIT

Model 454 de-luxe dishwasher. 7 programmes—Triple spray arms. All push button operated. 13 place setting. Decor panels.
SUPERB VALUE £239.95.
Model 101 electronic washer. 11lb. wash load, ½ load setting. 400/800 spin, 12 programmes.
BARGAIN PRICE £194.50.
Wide range of Indesit, Hoover, Zanussi, Tricity, Bendix, etc. always in stock.

LEDCO LTD.,
557-561 Battersea Park Road, SW11.
Tel.: 223 3344.

TAMESA FABRICS sale January 21st-31st. Fabrics, wall-coverings, carpets. 9-5, Saturdays 9-1. 343 Kings Road, S.W.3.

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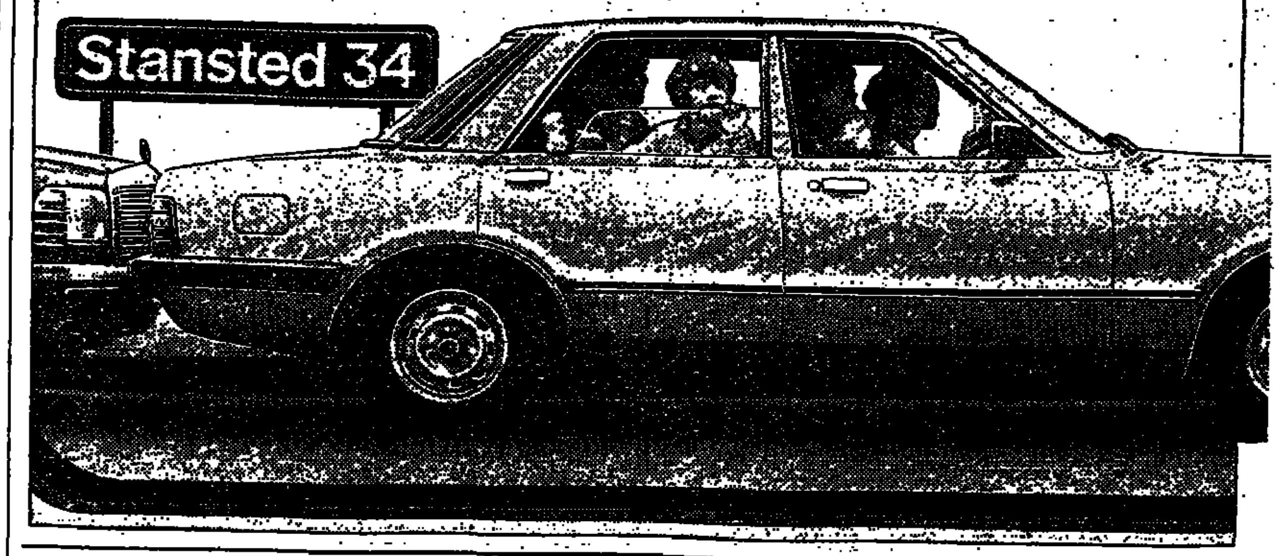
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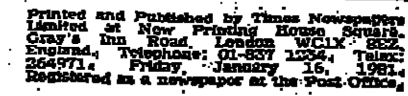
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(continued on page 22)





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